

Clarke in bid to defuse row over egg risk

Danger played down as Currie remains silent

- A bitter political row broke out yesterday after statements by Mrs Edwina Currie over the safety of eggs
- The Ministry of Agriculture announced a new code for poultry farmers aimed at combating salmonella in eggs
- Furious Tory MPs joined farmers in accusing the junior Health Minister of damaging the industry
- The elderly and other vulnerable groups were advised not to eat raw eggs or uncooked foods made from them

By Philip Webster and John Young

The Government yesterday sought to head off widespread public scare over food poisoning and to safeguard farmers against big losses by reassuring shoppers that it is safe to carry on buying eggs.

After a fierce Whitehall clash, triggered by Mrs Edwina Currie's remarks about most of the country's egg production being infected with salmonella, Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, was obliged to go to the Commons to placate angry Conservative MPs accusing her of damaging the industry by ill-considered statements.

At the same time the Gov-

ernment announced a tough new seven-point code to combat the spread of the bacteria, and Mr Clarke alerted the elderly and other vulnerable groups not to eat eggs unless they were thoroughly cooked.

Mr Clarke assured the Commons, however, that the risk to any healthy adults from eggs was "very small indeed."

Although the exchanges in the Commons were often light-hearted they had been preceded by a heated Whitehall dispute between the

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Department of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture over Mrs Currie's remarks.

The ministry was upset that she had made her comments in a television interview without first checking them.

As one leading egg producer said yesterday that he was instructing his farmers to seek "colossal damages" from Mrs Currie for harming business, an irritated Mr John Macgregor, the Minister of Agriculture, called Mr Clarke from Montreal in Canada, where he is attending a Gatt conference, for an explanation of Mrs Currie's remarks.

He was told of the contents of Mr Clarke's Commons statement and was said by colleagues to have been satisfied.

The general view in Whitehall is that Mrs Currie was guilty of a gaffe that could have damaged her long-term political prospects far more than any of the other controversies in which she has been involved.

She was conspicuously absent from the Government front-bench as Mr Clarke made his Commons statement, and health department officials declined to say where she was.

It transpired that she was on a visit to a hospital in south London where, besieged by reporters, she uncharacteristically declined to answer questions.

The view among Conservative MPs was that Mr Clarke, who had reportedly been angered by some of her earlier pronouncements, had told her to keep silent to avoid

further harm, but this was not confirmed by Mr Clarke's officials.

Both Mr Clarke in the Commons and Sir Donald Acheson, the Chief Medical Officer, in an interview on *The World at One* on BBC Radio, sidestepped questions over whether they agreed with Mrs Currie's remarks.

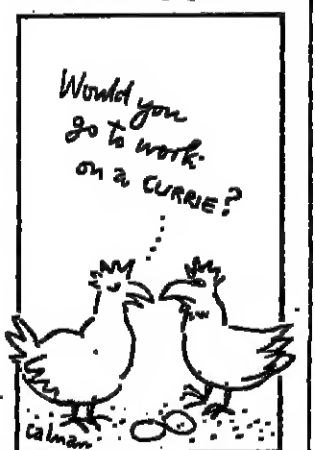
But after Labour MPs at least one Conservative had called for her resignation Mr Clarke publicly supported Mrs Currie and suggested that some MPs might be envious of "her natural gift for obtaining publicity."

This was not the first occasion on which she had obtained a great deal of publicity for a serious question and drawn the attention of the public to a matter which might otherwise have passed their notice.

Mr Richard Ryder, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, announced the new code for poultry breeders. It is voluntary, but the Government has ruled out making it compulsory if the industry fails to comply. It requires:

- Improved hygiene in poultry houses.
- Thorough cleaning and disinfection of poultry houses between batches.
- Hygienic transport of birds from hatcheries to rears.
- Sound hygienic practices for egg collection.
- Thorough hatchery hygiene practices.
- Strict bacteriological monitoring of breeding flocks and hatcheries.
- Strict monitoring of poultry

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A frenzied debut for steel



Frantic dealing on the London Traded Options Market after British Steel made its debut.

Little joy for small investors

By David Brewerton

Investors hoping for a quick profit on British Steel were denied their chance when dealings opened at a premium of just 3p a share yesterday. Few of the 650,000 investors who applied for the shares appeared willing to sell.

For most investors, the cost of dealing would have more than wiped out any profit. An investor with the minimum of 400 shares would have collected £8 by selling at the best price quoted while dealing costs would be at least £12.

The privatization has satisfied the Government and its advisers as the issue was oversubscribed, the shares opened at a premium and the Government avoided the charge that it sold too cheaply.

Shortly before trading began, the British Steel chairman, Sir Robert Scholey, was presented with the Businessman of the Year Award.

Steel premium, page 23

Soviet arms-control coup feared

By Michael Evans, London, Frederick Bonhart, Brussels, and Charles Bremner, New York

President Gorbachev of the Soviet Union arrives in New York today heralded by a Soviet public relations barrage that has raised fears in the White House that he may intend launching some spectacular peace initiative for which United States officials are unprepared.

While the US Administration has worked hard to lower expectations for tomorrow's session with President Reagan and President-elect George Bush, senior Soviet officials in New York have for the past three days been hinting that the Kremlin leader could use the podium at the United Nations General Assembly

tomorrow morning to perform a coup de theatre.

According to Mr Nikolai Shishlin, a Central Committee member, Mr Gorbachev "will have a Christmas gift to the American people and to mankind. I am quite sure that Mr Gorbachev will have in his

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pocket very interesting ideas, very interesting initiatives, and it's necessary simply to wait a little bit and we'll learn everything."

As if to counter a possible new Soviet initiative in the area of conventional arms

Radiation error by hospital puts 54 more patients at risk

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Two reports into radiation overdoses at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital show that 54 more patients were affected than was first admitted and that 10 may die from the treatment.

Exeter Health Authority initially admitted that 153 patients received 25 per cent more radiation than prescribed when a telecobalt machine in the hospital's radiotherapy department was wrongly calibrated.

The error was discovered in July, but some victims were not notified until the end of October.

Subsequently, Sir Bryan Thwaites, former chairman of Wessex Health Authority, investigated the causes of the blunder, while Professor Charles Joslin, a radiologist from Leeds, examined its medical consequences.

Professor Joslin says severe radiation has endangered the lives of up to 10 victims. Another 40 are at high risk, but the results are not life-threatening. Twenty are at moderate risk but are unlikely to have their quality of life affected.

At least 30 of the patients who received overdoses have since died. However, that figure includes patients diagnosed as terminally ill before the mishap.

Both reports, to be published today, are highly critical of the hospital's physics department for management failures and the "insensitive" way victims were notified of the blunder.

They say it is unprecedented for patients numbered in three figures to be inaccurately treated over a period of months in an area as potentially dangerous as radiotherapy.

The original mistake was made during calibration of the telecobalt machine.

The reports say: "It is incomprehensible that the working was not thoroughly checked first by the physicist who carried out the work and second by another physicist." The first physicist was "at the very least careless, and at worst negligent".

Last December, the hospital's management decided to transfer the more senior physicist to Torbay, leaving only one physicist committed to full-time radiation physics, another with previous experience, and Dr Scott Bowring, the head of department.

That change, Professor Thwaites's report says, was made by management despite an explicit written warning by Dr Bowring that it would be "fundamentally detrimental" to patient care.

After the calibration blunder was discovered, Mr Stuart Cook, a hospital physicist, and Dr Bowring were dismissed.

Last month, Mr Hamish Turner, the Torbay coroner, recorded a verdict of "misadventure aggravated by lack of care" on Mrs Marjorie Brimblecombe, aged 47, one of the patients affected.

The inquest opened the floodgates to claims for compensation from the local health authority.

Health authority sources confirmed the reports' accuracy last night. The Department of Health is expected to comment today.

WIN £36,000

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● There were no winners of yesterday's £4,000 daily prize, so today there is £36,000 to be won in the Portfolio Accumulator. Prices: page 27

INSIDE North Sea pull-out

International Thomson, one of the first companies to strike oil off the shores of Britain, is pulling out of the North Sea in a deal expected to bring in about £160 million.

The decision comes when two of Thomson's fields, Piper and Claymore, are out of commission because of the explosion on the Piper platform.

The proceeds will be invested in Thomson's publishing and holiday operations.

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Mutiny 'deal'

The end of Argentina's military revolt brought claims of a deal between the Army and the mutineers behind President Alfonsín's back and fears that he is not in complete control of the forces. Page 11

Win a holiday in Barbados

An offer that allows readers the chance to win two weeks in Barbados appears today. Tesco and Ross Foods have combined to give two couples a fortnight at the Tamarind Cove Hotel. The winners, plus 20 runners-up, will also receive a champagne flight on Concorde.

Details of the free prize draw appear in the Tesco colour insert in *The Times* today.

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Employment prospects in the 1990s

Training to be privatized

By Roland Radd and Nicholas Wood

The Government yesterday announced that new employment training and enterprise councils will provide the framework for training in Britain at local level, in a White Paper - *Employment for the 1990s* - which shifts responsibility and the cost of training to the private sector.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, said the Government would contract the existing training programme out to private companies. If their performance is unsatisfactory the contracts will be with-

drawn and, if necessary, the Government's training agency will step in and do the job. There will be 12 to 20 councils by the end of the year, and

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more than 100 after three years.

The move was bitterly criticized by both wings of the Labour movement for relying on a devolved employer-led system.

A consultative document

on the wages councils appears to be a prelude to their abolition after Mr Fowler said the system was "shot through with anomalies".

Mr Norman Fowler, general secretary of the TUC, said: "It is disgraceful that the Government has chosen to use this White Paper on the crucial issue of training as a vehicle for such a malevolent hotchpotch of prejudice. Removing the few remaining protections from the lowest-paid by abolishing wages councils will do nothing to generate jobs and relieve poverty."

Traffic nightmare returns to haunt London

By Staff Reporters

The critical state of road traffic conditions in London was graphically illustrated again yesterday when a single incident was the catalyst which brought much of south-west London to a standstill for several hours.

Throughout most of Wandsworth, Battersea and Fulham traffic was reported to be locked solid. There was a tail-back of seven miles on the A3, and severe congestion on the South Circular Road. It gave every sign that a single incident, the effects of which were exacerbated by heavy pre-Christmas traffic, was in danger of creating the long predicted paralysis of central London.

It was the latest of the large-scale traffic jams which have struck central

London in the last two weeks. On November 24, after a students' demonstration at Westminster during the afternoon, four bridges across the Thames were closed and almost the

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whole of central London was brought close to a standstill, with traffic not returning to normal until midnight.

Last week there were nightly traffic jams at Shepherd's Bush, west London, mainly caused by sewer repair works, and drivers took up to three of four hours to get through. In addition to the specific causes in every case the situation has been made worse by heavy pre-Christmas traffic

with people going to central London to shop and to see the festive lights.

Nevertheless, according to Insp Geoff Dudley, a senior officer in Scotland Yard's Central Communications complex, yesterday's incident, which led to tailbacks of up to eight miles, jams as far away as Sloane Square and ripple effects on roads throughout south and west London, only rated "four or five out of ten" on a scale of seriousness.

Surveying a battery of video screens monitoring vital sectors in London's traffic flow system through remote control cameras, he said only one accident at a single key junction like Hyde Park Corner could bring the whole of central London to a standstill. While south-west London was all

but paralysed yesterday, the camera showed traffic at Hyde Park Corner unseasonably mobile.

There are no cameras at Wandsworth since it is not seen as a particular trouble spot. Control of yesterday's incident was judged easier to handle from Wandsworth, where police used a mobile control van and set up a special incident room.

Insp Dudley said: "Almost every day there is the possibility that the whole of Central London will come to a halt - not necessarily for one isolated incident but probably two or three small independent incidents at vital areas. I don't think anybody would disagree with the description of the situation as a knife edge."

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Hurd to rebuff European court

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, will tell MPs today that the UK is going to reject a European court ruling that terrorist suspects must be brought before a judge within four days.

He will insist that the Government believes that it is vital for the security forces in their fight against terrorism to be able to hold suspects for seven days for interrogation.

The Home Secretary will tell MPs during the second reading of the new Prevention of Terrorism Bill that the Government has yet to decide whether to seek a derogation from the ruling or find a compromise formula.

The Prime Minister met senior ministers, including Mr Hurd, yesterday to discuss the Government's response to the ruling that the UK's anti-terrorism laws breached the European Convention on Human Rights.

P&O faces £1m claim

Ten seamen representing about 1,800 members of the National Union of Seamen launched a claim for £1 million from P&O Ferries in the High Court yesterday. Relatives of crew members who died in the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster are among those who stand to gain if the union wins the case, which dates back to a dispute three years ago. Members from 11 ships in the Townsend Thoresen fleet, now owned by P&O, are suing for damages for breach of contracts of employment. P&O denies the claim. The hearing continues today.

Hinkley alternative

A consortium of 79 local authorities has proposed three sites from which to choose a location for a new large coal-fired power station instead of building a third nuclear plant, costing £1.5 billion, at Hinkley Point in Somerset. A list of sites at Hams Hall, in north Warwickshire, Uckington, near Newport, and Thorpe Marsh, near Doncaster, is contained in a report submitted to the Hinkley Point C public inquiry, which enters its tenth week when it resumes today.

Sea search called off

Hopes of finding two missing seamen alive after a British dredger sank in the North Sea off the Belgian coast faded last night when an air-sea search was called off. Six of the 10 crew were rescued and the bodies of two others were recovered yesterday. Meanwhile, two fishermen who drowned off the Norfolk coast when their boat foundered were named yesterday as Alan Porter, aged 61, and Ronald Stephens, aged 31, both from Boston, Lincolnshire.

Coal wage talks eased

British Coal has offered the National Union of Mineworkers a chance to negotiate wage increases without joining the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers in discussions. Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, is currently campaigning for an overtime ban in protest at British Coal's previous decision to link wage negotiations with acceptance of a conciliation procedure recognizing the UDM. Sir Robert Haslam, chairman of British Coal, now says wage discussions can proceed.

38 charges denied

Michael Stone, aged 33, of Ravenswood Park, east Belfast, who is accused of the Milltown cemetery killings last March, pleaded not guilty to 38 charges at Belfast Crown Court yesterday. His trial is due to begin early next year. The charges involve 11 incidents between November 1984 and March 17, 1988, the day of the attack on mourners during the funeral of the three IRA terrorists shot dead by the SAS in Gibraltar. The charges include six murders, six attempted murders, six wounding, two attempted wounding and three of conspiracy to murder.

Officials criticized over 'silent' epidemic

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

The current health scare over contaminated eggs is part of a "silent" epidemic that has been growing in Britain for several years.

Although only a few thousand people may have become ill from eating eggs during that time, the Department of Health is being criticized for an allegedly slow response to the potential threat.

The department issued its first public warning about the problem of salmonella enteritidis in eggs on August 26, when it advised consumers, food manufacturers and catering establishments not to use raw eggs.

It elaborated on that warning on November 21, when it continued to emphasize that "the risk of any

individual egg being infected is likely to be very small". It advised consumers to avoid eating raw eggs or uncooked foods made from them. However, the department's critics say it has failed to emphasize that not only raw eggs are potentially dangerous. An editorial in *The Lancet* on September 24 said: "The department has failed to grasp that salmonella enteritidis is contaminating the contents of eggs and not just the shells.

The organism survives normal light cooking." According to the journal, "a large nationwide outbreak has been continuing uncontrolled for about two years".

Similar outbreaks of infection in the United States have led its health authorities to recommend last April that for safety, eggs should be boiled for seven minutes, poached for five or fried for three minutes on each side. However, on April 16, the depart-

ment said there was "no reason for any new advice... beyond observing normal hygiene and ensuring eggs are thoroughly cooked".

The American advice was first issued here on November 18 by the Institution of Environmental Health Officers, in a circular to its chief officers.

The eggs scare coincides with evidence that Britain is having its worst year in living memory for cases of food poisoning, with about 30,000 people likely to have been affected.

The chief difficulties faced by health investigators are that it is usually difficult to confirm which food caused the illness.

With 30 million eggs consumed daily in Britain, the Department of Health says that the risks are in the order of a one in 200 million chance of cracking open a contaminated egg.

Egg sale slump worries farmers

By Ruth Gledhill

For Mr John Dunne, aged 63, a poultry farmer for more than 30 years, the salmonella scare has caused the worst crisis yet in the industry.

He and his twin sons, John and Peter, produce 300,000 eggs a day at Dunton Poultry Farm near Basildon, Essex.

He believes a number of smaller producers could go out of business if sales continue to fall.

"It is the most serious thing that has ever happened to the industry and we think it is completely unjustified," he said.

"People in the industry are angry and frightened - not about salmonella, but about the loss of their livelihood."

He said sales slumped at the end of last week. This week could be worse.

"We are not belittling what has happened but we do not think there was a problem in the first place. We are absolutely sure that eggs are as safe as any other food. I am quite happy to drink a raw egg at any time to prove the point."

Mr Dunne has about 300,000 birds laying in cages at his farm. They are fed 114 grams of wheat, cereal, soya and protein with shells sprinkled on top each day.

Testers are employed to weed out dirty eggs, which are washed and sold as seconds for pasteurization. The rest are mechanically graded by weight before being delivered to Thames Valley Eggs, of Newbury, Berkshire, a large co-operative that is responsible for salmonella testing. Mr Dunne is the director.

"Our chicks are tested for salmonella before we even get them," he said. "Whatever people think of our methods on welfare grounds, the chances of spreading salmonella must be minimal compared with what it used to be when they were scratching around in their own dirt."

"All we want is a fair hearing."

Eggs have been taken off the menu at Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham, one of Britain's biggest hospitals. A spokeswoman said there had not been any cases of salmonella at the hospital, but the precaution was being taken until the local health authority decided otherwise.

Post Office refuses to give up £16m in TV fees

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Post Office has refused to hand over more than £16 million of television licence fee revenue which it owes to the Exchequer because of a bizarre dispute with the Home Office over collection costs.

The Home Office has in turn withheld £11.4 million which it owes to the Post Office, Mr John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General, said yesterday.

Because of the dispute, unresolved after three years, Mr Bourn has refused to endorse the Home Office's annual accounts. The dispute has pitted the Home Office against the Department of Trade and Industry, which has taken the Post Office's side.

It has prompted the Home Office, which believes it is being overcharged, to approach banks and other financial institutions to see whether they would be prepared to issue licences, breaking the Post Office's virtual monopoly. It is actively encouraging the payment of licence fees by "automated payment methods" used by 3 per cent of licence holders. Reporting on the Home

Office's annual appropriation accounts yesterday, Mr Bourn condemned the Post Office's action. It was not illegal but it was "most unsatisfactory" that the £16 million had been retained.

"In my view all revenue collected should, in principle, have been paid over promptly to the Consolidated Fund without deduction."

The squabbling began in 1985 when government departments became responsible for negotiating their own payments for Post Office services.

The Post Office has continued to issue about 19 million television licences each year, but the Home Office has so far failed to agree a fee for the service.

It cannot extract from the Post Office any information to demonstrate that its proposed charges - £53.3 million in the past two years - reflect the true cost of providing an efficient service.

Student leader attacks 'riot'



Miss Sigrid Fisher, president of Newcastle Polytechnic students' union, speaking yesterday

Students who forced the executive from the platform at the winter conference of the National Union of Students on Sunday were condemned by Miss Maeva Sherlock, the union president, yesterday. Miss Sherlock said that the occupation of the stage in the Winter Gardens in Blackpool had been damaging to the reputation of the union.

"The picture given to the outside world was that a riot occurred inside our own conference," she said. Reports that fighting had broken out on the stage have been dismissed

as untrue, but the National Organization of Labour Students and the Socialist Workers' Students' Society and other "Trotskyist" groups were accused of being behind the demonstration, when 150 chanting students mounted the stage and forced the executive off.

The conference of delegates from more than 820 institutions eventually passed a motion tabled by the union executive to support non-payment of the charge and a cultural festival under the slogan "rock against the poll tax" in Edinburgh on April 1.

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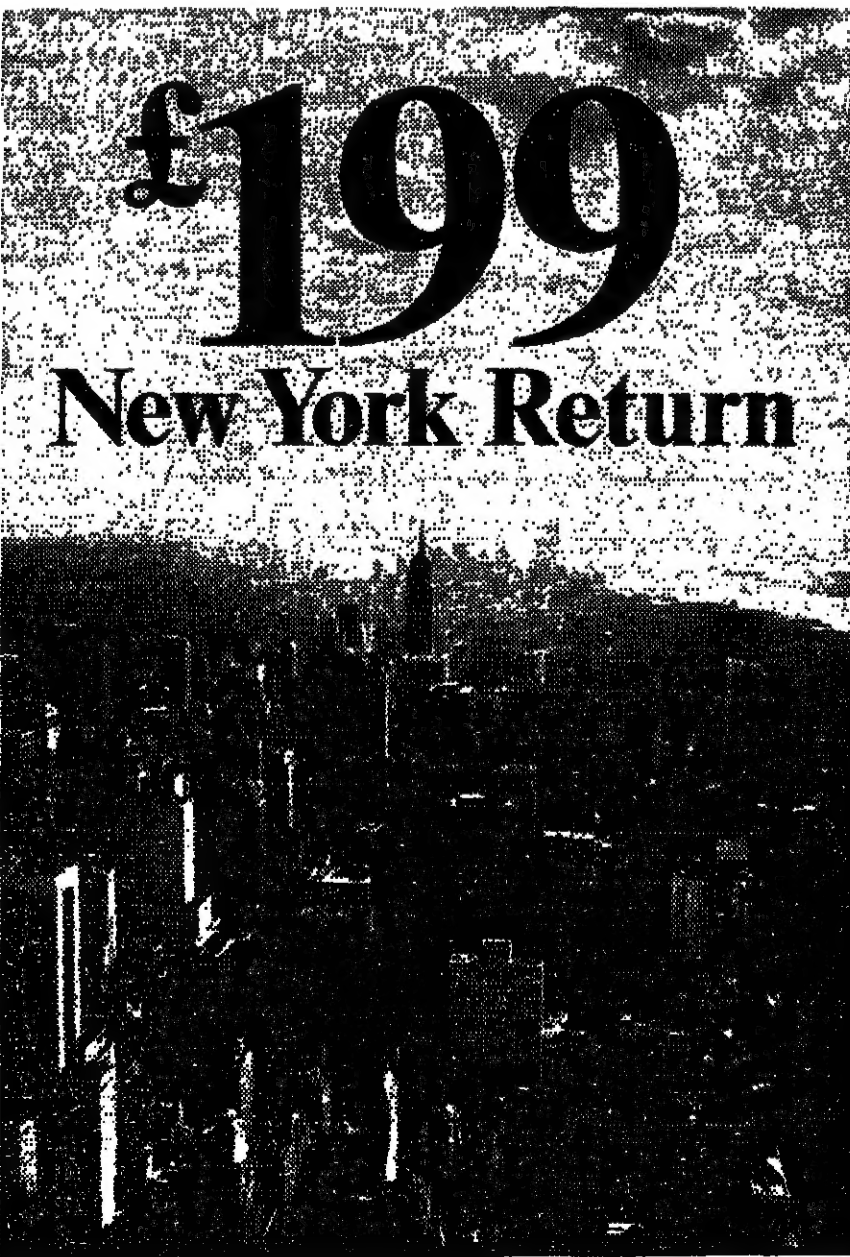
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Action over child victims

Cleveland doctors in sex abuse cases to be disciplined

By Peter Davenport

The Northern Region Health Authority has decided to take disciplinary action against the two consultant paediatricians at the centre of the Cleveland child sexual abuse crisis.

Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt have been told of the actions their employers intend to take and are consulting lawyers to decide whether to appeal.

Mr David Mellor, the Minister of State for Health, said yesterday that disciplinary measures against the consultants had been instigated.

He made the statement during a visit to open a 120-bed acute unit at the Middlesbrough General Hospital, where the child sexual abuse crisis began last year.

The disclosure came on a day when another central figure in the affair, Mr Michael Bishop, Cleveland's social services director, announced that he was to leave the authority to take up a similar post with Manchester City Council.

Mr Mellor also confirmed, as reported in *The Times* yesterday, that he has received a report by the Social Services Inspectorate into the way Cleveland was handling cases of child sexual abuse in the wake of last year's crisis.

Although the report, which is to be published tomorrow, is believed to recommend further improvements within the social services department, Mr Mellor said that he was not "disheartened" by

what he had read. The main thing, he said, was to ensure that in the future the department was able to cope properly and expertly with child sexual abuse cases.

He had ordered the inquiry last October after saying that he was "disturbed" at a decision by Cleveland County Council to take no disciplinary action against its two senior officials criticized in the Butler-Sloss report. Mr Bishop and his then child abuse consultant, Mrs Sue Richardson.

He also wrote to the Northern Region Health Authority asking for a report on its deliberations about Dr Higgs and Dr Wyatt.

The authority has been considering the future of the two doctors since the publication of the report by Lord Justice Butler-Sloss last July.

They have both been assigned to posts where they no longer deal with child sexual abuse cases: Dr Higgs at a neonatal unit in Newcastle upon Tyne and Dr Wyatt at the Middlesbrough General Hospital.

Mr Mellor said that he had discussed the issue with Sir Bernard Tomlinson, chairman of the regional health authority.

"Disciplinary proceedings have been set in train which carry with it certain legal requirements and the two doctors concerned are in the process of going through those legal requirements. Because of

the matter cannot be further publicly aired but I am entirely satisfied with the actions the regional health authority is taking."

Sir Bernard said that while there was no set limit on the time the doctors could take before deciding whether to appeal, the authority hoped to conclude the matter by the end of the year.

He would not disclose the action the authority intended to take.

"The doctors are in the process of exercising their legal rights. They have been offered a deal by the regional health authority and we are awaiting their decisions and other decisions of legal advice."

Mr Bishop, who has been Cleveland's social services director for six years, said last night that the move to Manchester was a career progression to a city with a bigger department and larger budget. He insisted that the events of the past two years had not affected his decision to move and that he had some feelings of sadness at leaving a good department.

Mr Bishop, aged 47, said it was a logical time, both for professional and family reasons, to move now. He takes up the new job in March.

Mr Mellor said that he could see the advantage to Mr Bishop of taking on a new challenge and for Cleveland County Council in its social services department having new leadership.

Battle to save sea birds after spillage

IAN KENNEDY



Mr Denis Bennett, of the New Quay Bird Hospital in Dyfed, removes the oil from a swan after spillage from a Liberian-registered oil tanker affected several miles of the west Wales coast. Treading the swans could take up to a year to complete.

By Mark Ellis

A massive clean-up continued under floodlights last night to rescue wildlife and to protect the beaches of the Pembrokeshire National Park in Wales after a supertanker spilt 100 tonnes of crude oil.

The captain of the Liberian-registered El Omar, which discharged its load at the Texaco refinery at Milford Haven, Dyfed, was served with a summons by the port authority warning him of possible prosecution.

A fault in the supertanker's sea valves, which control the 260,000-tonne vessel's ballasting, is believed to have caused the oil slick, which is expected to take a week to clean up and cost more than £100,000. A spokesman for the Milford Haven

Port Authority said the ship was allowed to sail back to the Middle East after the spillage on Saturday once a summons had been served on the captain.

Texaco has taken responsibility for the operation, helped by other oil companies, but a spokesman said it would expect the ship's insurers to meet the cost.

A floating boom was placed around the ship, but high winds blew oil into the estuary, spreading the pollution along the coast before some 50 tonnes of the spillage had been pumped out.

Conservationists feared thousands of sea birds could be at risk as the oil spread into the open sea. Mr David Saunders, of the West Wales Trust for Nature Conservation said: "There are masses of birds wintering offshore and if any

pollution spreads there it would be very bad news."

Several miles of beaches were seriously affected and among the first casualties were 10 swans with oil-drenched feathers taken to New Quay Bird Hospital, Dyfed.

Mr Alan Bryant, the owner, said: "It is probable they have also ingested oil, but we will do everything we can to save them. The poor swans look really miserable and bewildered. The fear is that they may just give up and die."

He said their treatment could take as long as a year to allow for their next growth of plumage.

Hundreds of workmen from Preseli and South Pembrokeshire councils were drafted in to help with the clean-up.

Doctor accused over baby death

A three-month baby being treated for diarrhoea died after his doctor refused to visit him at home, a disciplinary hearing was told yesterday.

Dr Hemendra Pandya, a GP in Coventry, is accused of serious professional misconduct. Richard Wolstenholme, of Stoke Aldermoor, Coventry, died in hospital of dehydration on New Year's Day, 1987, the General Medical Council's professional conduct committee was told.

Dr Pandya visited the baby at home on a number of occasions in November 1986 after he began vomiting and going off his food. His condition continued to deteriorate, however, and his parents telephoned Dr Pandya's surgery.

"They explained their concern and asked for a visit, but all that Dr Pandya did was to say he would issue a prescription," Miss Rosalind Foster, for the GMC, said.

By December 23, the baby had not improved and again the doctor was asked to visit. Again he said he would telephone through a prescription, Miss Foster said.

On Christmas Eve, after Dr Pandya again said he was too busy to visit, Mr Christopher Wolstenholme, aged 27, took his son to hospital where he died eight days later, the hearing was told.

In a letter of explanation read out to the council, Dr Pandya said he "certainly did not refuse to visit". He said the baby was "not seriously ill" when taken to hospital.

Mrs Christine Wolstenholme, aged 32, told the hearing "Richard was healthy in his very early life. Then things began to go wrong about six weeks after his birth. He was always being sick and he had the runs."

Tortured girl 'held under water by stepfather'

By Michael Horsnell

A battered and tortured girl aged 16 months was held under bathwater for two minutes at a time by her stepfather as a punishment for not eating, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

The girl's mother, who faces joint charges of murder and child cruelty, said in a statement that Roy Aston, aged 24, had forced her daughter to stand after she suffered a broken leg and had tried to straiten it with his hands.

At other times, he had laid a Hoover vacuum cleaner on the broken leg and had tied on a splint made from a piece of wood, she said in a statement

to the police. Earlier, the court was told the girl's hand had been almost skinned within a week of her death after being burnt probably with a cigarette lighter.

The mother, Christine Mason, aged 22, and Mr Aston deny charges of murdering Doreen Mason at their council flat at Walworth, south London, on September 13 last year. They also deny child cruelty.

In alleged statements to the police after the death, Miss Mason protested her innocence. She said she hid under blankets with her fingers in her ears while Mr Aston tortured the baby. In one

statement, Miss Mason allegedly said: "I told him he was a sadist. He admitted he enjoyed giving people pain. When he teased and hit the baby he used to have a smile on his face as if he enjoyed it."

She allegedly said the beatings started three to four months before her daughter died from a brain haemorrhage. "He just said the baby used to annoy him and really aggravated him."

The court was told Miss Mason said in a statement that Mr Aston put Doreen in the bath and held her head under the water, saying: "She can stay under longer than I can".

She allegedly said in the statement: "He picked the baby out and her belly was bulging with water. If she had been an adult she would have looked three or four months pregnant. She looked doped up to me. She was swaying from side to side."

Miss Mason alleged that Mr Aston had then laid the girl on her stomach and pumped water out of her mouth.

On other occasions, he allegedly stood the girl against a wall to straighten her broken leg, although she kept falling onto her forehead. He allegedly forced her to stay upright by pushing his head into

her stomach while manipulating the leg with his hands.

She told the police she did nothing to stop the torture because she was terrified of Mr Mason, whom she believed would accuse her.

Earlier, Dr Richard Shepherd, a pathologist, said a lighted match could not have caused the burn to the palm of the girl's left hand because of the gravity of the injury.

He said the girl died from a brain haemorrhage. Other severe injuries which were inflicted simultaneously within 12 hours of her parents' dialling 999 for an ambulance. The trial continues today.

Parents defy council on vote

By Douglas Brown and Ian Smith

Parents at Audenshaw High School in Greater Manchester yesterday defied the wrath of Labour councillors and voted by more than nine to one in favour of opting out of local authority control.

Labour-controlled Tameside Borough Council, which sold off the school to a private firm in an attempt to frustrate the opting-out plan, was credited with increasing the majority in favour of opting out by its aggressive action.

In spite of its warnings that the school would be ostracized by other council-run institutions, 908 of the 1,166 parents

eligible to vote cast their ballots for opting out. There were 94 votes against.

Mr Andrew Turner, director of the Grant Maintained Schools Trust, the independent body set up to advise schools on opting out, said the result was "a tremendous result achieved in the face of unprecedented scare tactics".

The local branch of the National Union of Teachers and the local Labour MP, Mr Andrew Bennett, had joined the vocal campaign against opting out.

Last month the council was accused by ministers of mounting "a malicious campaign of disinformation".

Mr Terry Hall, chairman of the governing body, said the school's future would now be guaranteed if Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, agreed to a parental take-over.

Mr Roy Oldham, leader of Tameside council, said the authority would have to find alternative methods of removing 3,000 surplus places in local schools.

Parents began their campaign immediately they learnt of plans to close the building and merge pupils with those educated at Egerton Park school in Denton.

Action plan to halt 'greenhouse effect'

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A comprehensive plan to avert the worst consequences of the "greenhouse effect" on the Earth's atmosphere is contained in a study by Britain's leading climatic research group, published today.

The report, prepared for Friends of the Earth by Miss Jacqueline Karas and Dr Michael Kelly, of the environmental sciences department at East Anglia University, calls for urgent action by European countries to halt the danger to agriculture, forests and coastal areas from changing world temperatures and rising sea levels. If unchecked, sea levels will rise by up to 1.65 metres over the next 40 years.

In Britain, the Thames,



Severn and Humber estuaries and the Wash would be vulnerable to flooding.

Crops such as potatoes and sugar beet might benefit from a rise in temperatures, but

others, particularly cereals, would not.

Improvements to sea defences alone are likely to cost between £5 billion and £8 billion. The Thames Barrier would need modifying to withstand storm surges that would be more frequent and severe as sea levels rose.

The climate of southern England could become closer to that of south-west France. Northern England and Scotland would become warmer but not necessarily drier. The threatened disruption comes from the discharge of "greenhouse gases" into the atmosphere.

In their report, *The Heat Trap*, the scientists say the main trouble is from a huge rise in carbon dioxide in the

atmosphere since the industrial revolution, caused by the burning of fossil fuels, particularly coal in power stations.

Other greenhouse gases contributing to the problem are nitrous oxide from vehicles, methane from agriculture and CFCs used in aerosols and refrigerators.

Friends of the Earth said nuclear power was not the answer. The most effective, quickest and cheapest way of cutting carbon dioxide emissions from power stations was to carry out energy efficiency and conservation measures.

Mr Charles Secrett, FoE campaigns co-ordinator, said the report showed what needed to be done; it was up to governments to act before it was too late.

Opt-out proposals likely for hospitals

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

At least six National Health Service hospitals could be self-governing within the next two years as a result of the Prime Minister's review of the health service.

The White Paper, due out in January, is expected to propose that hospitals could opt out of local health authority control and become self-governing bodies within the NHS. They would negotiate contracts with regional and district health authorities or general practitioners to provide services.

Two hospitals have already

expressed interest, including Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals, south London. It is understood that four or five others in different parts of England would be chosen on a voluntary basis.

The scheme, which would involve sweeping legislative changes, would give hospitals statutory status for the first time. They would be able to hire and fire staff and would be freed from having to stick to national pay scales and job descriptions. Staff could be given performance-related pay, set at market rates.

Woman sues over breast operation

A woman told the High Court yesterday of her "terror" when she found her breasts swelling after cosmetic surgery went wrong.

Mrs Margaret Lee, aged 43, of Beech Road, Westgate, Kent, has been left scarred after six operations to increase the size of her breasts, the court was told.

Mrs Lee is suing Mr Thomas Cochran, a plastic surgeon, of Harley Street, central London, to whom she paid £1,000 to put right disfigurement after an operation by another surgeon in 1967. Mr Michael Pearson, for

Mrs Lee, said that the operation done by Mr Cochran went "dreadfully wrong".

It is not alleged that Mr Cochran was negligent in carrying out the operation to put her breasts right. Mrs Lee says she was not warned of the risk of failure.

She went to see Mr Cochran as a private patient in January 1982.

Mr Cochran denies that he failed to warn Mrs Lee of the possible consequences and risks.

The hearing, expected to last four days, continues today.

Cliff Richard in place for season's top record

By Andrew Billen
Arts Correspondent

The heads of Britain's recording industry were yesterday expecting an easy win for Cliff Richard in an annual race that is worth sales of up to one million singles in three weeks and £3 million to the winner.

Mr Richard, a veteran at 48 with 100 hits in his 30-year career, came top of the Gallup/BBC charts with his *Mistletoe and Wine*, a placing that gives him pole position for the industry's biggest financial prize of the year: the Christmas no. 1. The Christmas single market is still worth £27 million.

William Hill, the bookmaker, makes Cliff Richard's *Mistletoe and Wine*,

which was top of the BBC Gallup chart after just two weeks, 6-4 favourite.

Mr Richard's closest contender, *Especially For You*, by Kylie Minogue and her *Neighbours* co-star Jason Donovan, entered the chart on Sunday at number two having sold 350,000 copies.

Christmas, however, is no respecter of musical reputations, and big names have in the past been cast into shadow by a novelty release.

Number ones during the past 30 Christmases have included St Winifred School Choir's *There's No One Quite Like Grandma* (1980), Benny Hill's *Ernie - the Fastest Milkman in the West* (1971), Rolf Harris's *Two Little Boys* (1969) and the Scaffold's *Lily the Pink*

(1968). This year the most obvious follower in that tradition is *John Kertley is a Weather Man* (which continues: "and so is Michael Fish") by A Tribe of Toffs (12-1).

Other novelty records include Dame Edna Everage's version of the *Neighbours* theme (20-1, William Hill says), *Glory Be*, a hymn sung to the *EastEnders* theme (25-1), and *Minnie the Moocher* by the Reggae Philharmonics (50-1).

The unlikely entrant of all, however, is that of a pig called DJ Trotter whose handler noticed her musical grunts and released a number called *Hot to the Trot*. "All animal records are given odds of 50-1," the man from William Hill said wearily.

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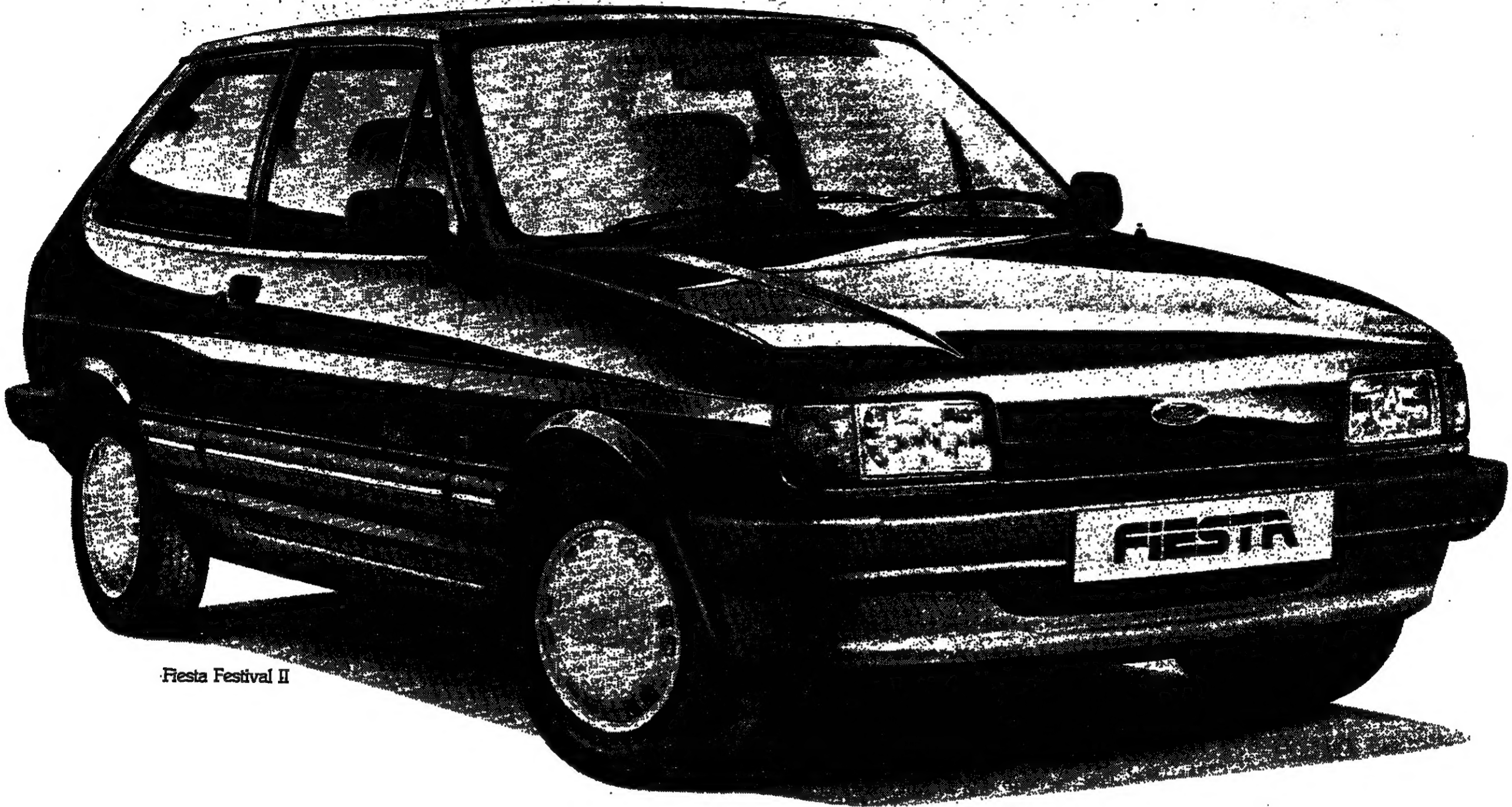
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36 monthly payments of	133.44	164.82	173.19	186.25	196.29	197.06	221.44	231.05
Charge for credit	823.84	1017.52	1069.24	1149.80	1212.04	1216.56	1367.04	1426.60
Total credit price	5798.84	7162.52	7526.24	8093.80	8530.04	8563.56	9623.04	10040.60

3.9% (7.5% APR)

Initial payment (minimum 50%)	2487.50	3072.50	3228.50	3472.00	3659.00	3673.50	4128.00	4307.00
24 monthly payments of	111.73	138.01	145.01	155.95	164.35	165.00	185.42	193.46
Charge for credit	194.02	239.74	251.74	270.80	285.40	286.50	322.08	336.04
Total credit price	5169.02	6384.74	6708.74	7214.80	7603.40	7633.50	8578.08	8950.04



Fiesta Festival II

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Farmers' president attacks Government over inflation level

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Government has failed abysmally in its primary duty to control inflation, Mr Simon Gourlay, president of the National Farmers' Union, said yesterday.

Britain had the third-highest inflation rate in the EEC and it was still rising, he said. It also had the second-highest interest rates, which were likely to rise still further.

High interest rates meant high values for sterling, which in turn heaped burdens on primary industries such as agriculture, he said at the Royal Smithfield Show in London.

"Every percentage point rise in base rates translates into at least six percentage points of the industry's already abysmally low net income", Mr Gourlay said.

"The combination of high inflation, high interest and an over-strong pound imposes a crippling burden."

In real terms, he said, farm incomes would reach their lowest level this year since the war.

The industry was moving deep into recession, and in the past three years had cut its fulltime labour force by 17 per

cent, a loss of 20,000 rural jobs.

The Government's suggestion that farmers should look for other sources of income was tantamount to saying that those activities should subsidize farming. The basic business of farmers was to produce food, and that must be made profitable.

The NFU accepted that public expenditure on agriculture must be controlled, and that that would involve changes to the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy. But the present mechanisms were not an efficient method of controlling production, were incompatible with a prosperous farming industry, and were in conflict with public demands for a "greener" countryside.

Mr Gourlay said the NFU was talking to farmers' leaders in France and West Germany about extending compulsory restrictions on production, similar to the milk quota system.

Together, the three countries were responsible for two-thirds of the Community's output, and their farmers could not survive in a totally

unregulated market place. "I accept the need for market balance", Mr Gourlay said. "But I believe some extension of supply management is inevitable."

Ways must be found to reverse the downward trend in farm incomes caused by farm-gate prices lagging behind inflation in purchased goods and services.

The Ministry of Agriculture immediately rejected the idea of extending production quotas yesterday.

Baroness Trumpington, parliamentary secretary at the ministry, said quotas removed opportunities for expansion and kept prices unnecessarily high. "I cannot think of an approach less in line with the Government's open market policies."

"Farmers' incomes will be best assured not by sheltering them from market realities but by encouraging farmers to use their business skills. The Government recognizes the problems that higher interest rates can cause. But in our sophisticated economy they are the right response to inflationary pressures."

Show report, page 16

Degree for an entrepreneur



Mr Alan Sugar, chairman of Amstrad, after receiving an honorary degree yesterday in Guildhall, London, from City University Business School. Mr Sugar, who received his degree from Professor Andrew Chambers, the dean, has been closely involved with the business school, including establishing the Amstrad Research Scholarship.

Ormond Street hospital fund reaches £30m

By Emma Wilkins

An appeal has raised £30 million in just over a year for the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, central London. It is believed to be the most successful single appeal for a hospital in Britain.

Organizers of the Wishing Well Appeal Fund, launched 14 months ago to pay for the hospital's redevelopment, believe they will reach the final target of £42 million well ahead of schedule.

The announcement came yesterday at the unveiling of the Peter Pan mural, painted by Edmund Caswell, on one of the hospital's 72ft by 8ft walls.

The speed with which the appeal target was reached has surprised other children's hospitals. Some feel that the campaign detracted from their own.

However, Miss Marion Allford, director of the appeal committee, denied that the organizers have adopted aggressive marketing techniques or adversely affected other hospitals' campaigns.

"We have purposely not set up regional committees in places with other children's hospitals because we are most concerned with our relationship with them and we have

done nothing to advertise in those areas", she said.

The redevelopment plan centres on a five-storey block to be built at the heart of the hospital, which will be linked to all the main buildings.

The back of the Victorian block and the old outpatients' building will be demolished.

The Government has increased its financial commitment to the building scheme from £20 million to £30 million to help to counter the rise in building costs caused by inflation. The Wishing Well fund increased its target from £30 million to £42 million last July.

The appeal has received strong support from its patrons, the Prince and Princess of Wales. Other members of the Royal Family have helped by donating their teddy bears to an exhibition to raise funds.

Michael Jackson, the singer, donated £120,000 after a concert tour last July. A Worktop grocer raised £1,000 by serving in a bath of baked beans and spaghetti for five hours. Sebastian Coe and Steve Cram, the athletes, raised £52,000 by singing round the Great Court. Trinity College, Cambridge, while the clocked choir.

Dean rejects call on Mappa sale

By Craig Seton and Sheila Goss

The Dean and Chapter of Hereford Cathedral yesterday unanimously rejected calls to withdraw the Mappa Mundi from auction and said the sale would go ahead unless and until £7 million or its equivalent was guaranteed towards the cathedral's finances.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, remained confident last night that the map would be kept in Britain and brushed aside criticism in the Commons over his refusal to step in.

The Very Rev Peter Haynes, the dean, denied that the decision to press on with the sale in spite of mounting public opposition was an attempt to "blackmail" British heritage bodies into helping the cathedral out of its financial crisis.

At a press conference after a three-hour meeting of the dean and chapter, he said that the auction of the medieval map of the world at Sotheby's next June was "by no means inevitable".

The meeting came after discussions last week when Lord Charteris, the chairman

of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, appealed to the dean to withdraw the map from sale while proposals were negotiated about possible financial help for the cathedral. But the dean said yesterday: "We continue to be highly responsive to some of the proposals and to explore all ways of saving the Mappa Mundi."

"But until the position is resolved we have no plans to revoke the proposed sale. I would like to be able to call off the sale tomorrow or even in half an hour's time. We are open to any offer which can be backed up by a realistic amount in writing."

It is believed that Mr Luce has not ruled out a personal intervention if all other attempts fail. He told MPs he hoped a solution could be found which would lead to the withdrawal of the map from auction.

"Preserving it in this country is important and all parties must work to that end. I have no shadow of doubt that it is important to preserve it in this country", he said.

Masquerade Hare fetches £31,900

It took hard cash rather than ingenuity for an anonymous buyer to become the new owner of Kit Williams's "Masquerade Hare" at Sotheby's London yesterday.

The gold pendant which was buried by Mr Williams in August 1979, and subsequently became an obsession for thousands of treasure seekers scouring his book *Masquerade* for clues, fetched five times its estimate, at £31,900. Mr Williams admitted early defeat in the bidding.

Fashioned in 18 carat gold, the hare had been sent for sale on behalf of the man who found it in 1982, Dugald Thompson, from Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire. He launched Haresoft, a computer software company with a game hunting the jewelled hare. But the golden hare was sold yesterday on behalf of Peat Marwick, Haresoft's liquidators, to an anonymous buyer.

Stylish furniture from the estate of Henry Ford II, grandson of the founder of the Ford Motor Company who died earlier this year, was in great demand at his English

SALEROOM

by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

country home, Turville Grange, Henley.

A Bessarabian carpet decorated with ivory and pale indigo medallions quadrupled its estimate at £82,500, selling anonymously, while a Ziegler carpet decorated with leaves, palm trees and flowerheads sold for £31,900 (estimate £6,000). "It is a typical house sale - everyone wants to go home with something", a spokesman said. The sale totalled £1 million.

The perfect, if bizarre *apres ski* drinks cabinet - its legs stylized skis - fetched top price at Sotheby's Monaco "Decorative Arts" sale on Sunday, selling for FF1.7 million (£152,797) or three times its estimate.

A 1964 Facel Vega two-door coupe bought as new by Ringo Starr in 1964, fetched £42,350 at Sotheby's London (estimate £30,000).

Action call to end staff crisis in JPs' courts

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government was urged last night to tackle the worsening crisis of staffing in the magistrates' courts service.

There are now more than 135 vacancies for court clerks nationally and, in October alone, a minimum of 130 courtroom sittings were cancelled throughout England and Wales.

Mr Neil McKittrick, chairman of the professional purposes committee of the Justices' Clerks' Society, said to magistrates in Banbury, Oxfordshire: "The shortage of court clerks in magistrates' courts is growing worse by the month."

"Many experienced court clerks are leaving to pursue careers with the Crown

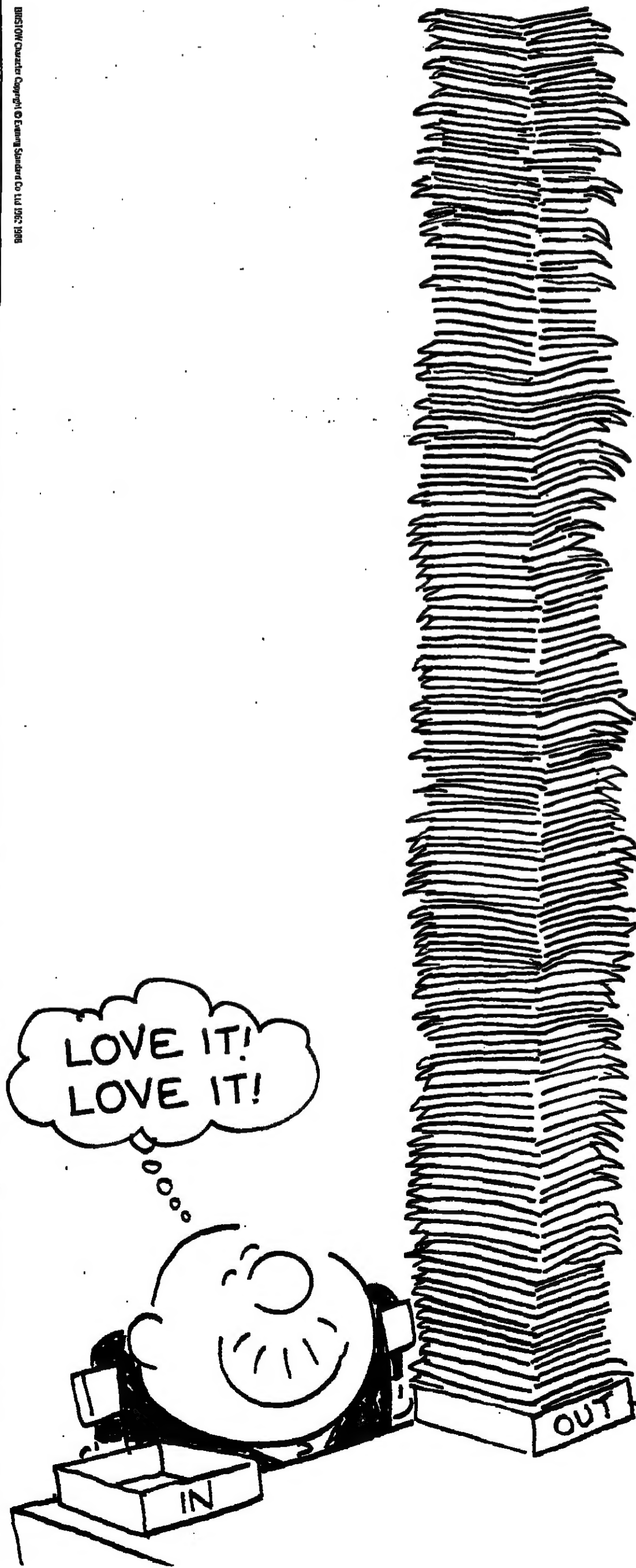
Prosecution Service and in private practice.

"Much better salaries and improved career prospects are the prime motives."

He called on the Government to set up a full-scale review into the financing and structure of the magistrates' courts' service and to take urgent steps to alleviate the crisis.

"Fewer court clerks means fewer courts and that means delays to cases", he said. "In human terms it may mean that witnesses may forget vital evidence, victims of crime may not be compensated and the innocent have to wait much longer to have their names cleared. It is as serious as that."

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Curriculum council gives warning on graduate shortages and yields on maths

Women 'losers in planned science teaching changes'

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Proposed changes in science teaching could work against women and are unlikely to increase the number of science and engineering graduates in Britain's universities, Mr. Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, was told yesterday.

The Science Working Group reported that science teaching for pupils between 5 and 16 should take 20 per cent of curriculum time but Mr Baker asked it to consider cutting the time for those aged 14 to 16 to 12.5 per cent.

In its final recommendations to Mr Baker, published yesterday, the National Curriculum Council (NCC) proposes the introduction of two levels of science teaching, a short course with a single certificate and a long course with a double award.

The report comments: "Curriculum choice between single/double award science at 14 plus is unlikely to increase the number of students studying science at A level and studying science and engineering subjects at university".

Mr Duncan Graham, NCC chairman, says most of those consulted were against the cutback, particularly as it could stop girls becoming scientists, but it was felt there was a case for a single science programme. The council is concerned that the shorter science course may deter girls from taking up science and that those pupils who then want to go on to A levels will have to take a "short intensive supplementary course".

The report adds: "The problem lies in student choice. A student who has followed a single award science course

from the age of 14 is less likely to consider a science-based career and science study post-16. A sizeable proportion of these single award pupils are likely to be girls."

Research has shown that, given the choice, girls are more likely than boys to opt for a short science course and, therefore, are less likely to become qualified for a career in science.

Mr Graham said yesterday: "There is evidence that the 20 per cent course of science is proving attractive to girls and a move to 12.5 per cent could reverse the trend. Our strong feeling is for the long course but we do face the problem of getting a quart into a pint pot in the 14-16 curriculum."

"There are conflicting interests and we might limit options elsewhere if a sizeable part of the curriculum was given over to science."

Despite the practical difficulties, Mr Graham and the NCC - set up to oversee the national curriculum introduced by the Education Reform Act - believe that as many children as possible should undertake the 20 per cent course leading to two certificates in the exploration of science and the knowledge and understanding of science.

Mr Graham says in a letter to Mr Baker: "You should encourage the majority of pupils to take the full course of 17 attainment targets."

The recommendations are being considered by Mr Baker, who must issue statutory orders before the curriculum enters the school. If he objects to any of the proposals he will have to make his

reasons public but Department of Education officials indicated last night that he was unlikely to raise any objections.

Among targets set for pupils in the NCC report are:

Children of five to seven to be encouraged to develop their investigative skills and understanding of science by solving problems set within their everyday experience; to learn about themselves and the natural world.

At seven to five they should promote the fostering and answering of questions; understand safety and care and use an increasingly systematic approach in their learning; to investigate two different localities; undertake field work; learn about food, health and the basic working of the human body.

At 11 to 14 children should be able to communicate, apply and investigate scientific and technological knowledge and ideas; to develop their investigative skills and understanding of science through systematic experimentation and investigations.

At 14 to 16 they should be given further opportunities to develop their skills of reporting and recording; to articulate their own ideas; work independently or contribute to group work; develop research skills; and to develop their awareness of the importance of science in everyday life.

The National Curriculum Council Consultation Reports on Science and Mathematics (NCC, Newcombe House, 45 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3JB, or 15-17 New Street, York, YO1 2RA; both free).

ATTAINMENT TARGETS - THE PROCESSES OF LIFE

5-7
YEAR
OLDS



Finding out about themselves - how they grow, feed, move and use their senses. Using suitable books, pictures and charts, give them ideas about how to keep healthy through exercise and personal safety; and about the use of drugs as medicine

14-16
YEAR
OLDS



Exploring and investigating sensitivity, coordination and response.. relating behaviour to survival and reproduction in plants and animals. Opportunities to consider examples of technologies used to promote, improve and sustain the quality of life. The effects of drugs on the body

'Calculators only' view is toned down

By Our Education Editor

The National Curriculum Council has been persuaded by Mr Kenneth Baker that schools should teach long division and multiplication by pencil and paper instead of relying solely on calculators.

In their original report the mathematics working party chaired by Mr Duncan Graham, council chairman, said: "There is no moral gain derived from tackling 1,000

long divisions when calculators exist".

The Secretary of State for Education said he thought children should know how answers were reached and the council has gone some way towards meeting his objections. It says that "pupils should be able to use mental, pencil-and-paper methods and calculators as appropriate and should be able to carry out the operations of multiplication and division using two and

three digit numbers by pencil and paper methods".

Mr Graham was launching the council's consultation report on mathematics, which has to be approved by Mr Baker.

The two main aims of the mathematics curriculum will be to focus on the pupils' capacity to use and apply the mathematics they are learning to practical tasks, and their capacity to use mathematics with which they are familiar in

tackling theoretical or "real-life" problems.

Examples of what children should be able to do include: At five to seven years: predict whether the contents of a tall cylinder will fill a cylinder of a different base. At seven to 11: organize a rota (with timings) for school lunches to avoid queuing. At eleven to 14: design a container to hold a litre of milk and set out instructions for mass production.

WHITE PAPER ON TRAINING

Employers asked to take on bigger share of skills cost

By Roland Rudd
Employment Affairs Reporter

The Government yesterday announced the most radical reform of Britain's training system in more than 20 years in a White Paper entitled *Employment for the 1990s*.

Employers are to take over a greater share of the responsibility and the cost of training which will be decentralized. The Government believes that, skill needs can be best identified and met at a local level. The White Paper identifies the lack of skills as the most significant barrier to job growth in the 1990s.

Last week the Government's Employment Bill established the new training framework by formally abolishing the

tripartite Training Commission and transferred all its rights directly to the Department of Employment.

Yesterday's White Paper outlines the nuts and bolts of how the training will work.

There is no new national advisory board for national representatives of trade unions. The White Paper says: "The Government believes that a local, employer-led training system provides the best model for the future".

The White Paper sets out a number of key training objectives to be met over the next three years. The most significant is its proposal to invite local employer-led groups to establish a national network of training and enterprise councils to plan

and deliver training and to promote the development of small businesses at local level.

Much of the department's £3 billion training budget will be dispersed to the councils, although private enterprise will still be expected to meet much of the cost of training, not only for its own employees, but for those of its competitors as well.

That is the most ambitious part of the plan and yesterday it became clear that not all of Britain's leading industrialists think it will work as smoothly as the Government believes. The proposal was attacked directly by both wings of the Labour movement.

A National Training Task Force will

assist the Secretary of State to develop the new local training arrangements. Its main aim will be to promote greater investment by employers in the skills of the workforce. The chairman of the Task Force will be Mr Brian Wolfson, the former chairman of the Training Commission.

Mr Wolfson will be anxious to see employers train the elderly, long-term unemployed and ethnic minorities and women returning to the labour market to meet the challenges of the 1990s when the so-called demographic time-bomb will mean that the supply of school leavers will be reduced sharply by 25 per cent.

The Government will also launch the

"Business Growth through Training Programme" to help companies to develop a training strategy to meet their business objectives.

The remaining statutory industrial training boards and organizations, which represent employers in their sectors, are to be removed from the public sector into the private sector.

The Government is to draw up an agreed programme and timetable for the boards to become independent non-statutory bodies.

Other steps announced in the White Paper include examining the operation of the pre-entry closed shop which is expected to be abolished in the lifetime of this Parliament.

The publication of a consultation document inviting views on the future of the Wages Council system is also understood to be a prelude to the abolition of the councils. The Government believes they inflate wages artificially at the bottom of the labour market, so restricting new jobs.

Continuing government efforts will be made in the new year to ensure that unemployment benefits are available only to those genuinely seeking work. It is understood that Mr Fowler has commissioned reports into unemployment in Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton.

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Leading article, page 15

Focus is on meeting local business needs

The Government intends to build on the existing involvement and commitment of business by inviting local groups led by employers to form training and enterprise councils (TECs). That is the key of the White Paper.

TECs will examine the local labour market, assessing skill needs, prospects for expanded job growth and the adequacy of existing training opportunities.

A plan for securing quality training and enterprise development that meets both government guarantees and community needs will be produced to help the councils manage training programmes for young people, for unemployed people and for adults requiring retraining.

The councils will be responsible for the development and provision of training for small businesses.

TECs will also work in co-operation with the private sector, harnessing the considerable resources that are being applied to encourage and support small business enterprises through local agencies.

They will be responsible for promoting and directing more private-sector investment in training, vocational education and enterprise activities designed to strengthen the local skill base.

TECs will become an important local forum and agent for change, building relationships between interest groups, and investing public and private resources to enhance the economic vitality of the community.

The Welsh Office will consider how best to integrate the training responsibilities of TECs in Wales with the enterprise activities undertaken by the Welsh Development Agency and Mid Wales Development and by the department itself.

At least two thirds of TEC members should be employers at top management level, drawn from the private sector. Others on the councils will include senior figures from local education, training and economic development activities and from voluntary bodies and trade unions.

TECs will subcontract training and enterprise activities to local providers in the same way as Training Agency area offices now contract with training managers and managing agents. TECs are expected to evolve gradually over three to four years, with the first councils established before the end of 1989.

The White Paper sets out a number of training objectives to be met over the next three years. Immediate priorities are:

- A national training task force to assist the Secretary of State in developing local training.
- Local employer-led groups to establish a national network of training and enterprise councils.
- The launch of the business growth through training programme.
- Statutory industrial training boards and organizations representing employers to become independent, non-statutory bodies.

The Training Agency At national level, the main authority concerned with training promotion and development will be the Government's Training Agency.

The agency will continue to operate as did its predecessor, the Training Commission, working with employers, the education service, voluntary organizations, training providers and trade unions to improve the training system. In addition, it will also take on some of the small firms and enterprise functions of the Department of Employment.

National Training Task Force The task force will assist in the establishment and development of the new training and enterprise councils.

It will have up to 12 members, two thirds of whom will be drawn from industry and commerce. Its chairman will be Mr Brian Wolfson. Other appointments will be announced soon.

Industrial Training Boards The seven remaining training boards are to put forward proposals for moving as quickly as possible to become independent, non-statutory training organizations, fully supported by employers in their sectors.

Such organizations would not have the power to impose levies by statute, but will be free to generate income from subscriptions and charges for services or products, as several boards have successfully done.

Skills Training Agency The Government is taking professional advice on the feasibility of moving the Skills Training Agency.

PROGRAMMES Employment Training Training and enterprise councils will be responsible

for employment training, the Government's new programme for unemployed adults.

YTS The Youth Training Scheme was introduced in 1983 and has trained more than two million young people. In September 1988, 435,000 had places on YTS projects.

The latest figures show that 74 per cent of young people leaving YTS go into jobs, or take up further education or training. The number of trainees securing recognized qualifications is rising each year.

However, the Government has decided that the changing circumstances of the youth labour market require the precise scope and role of YTS to be kept under review. It will put more emphasis on qualifications, and will expect employers to assume a fuller share of the costs.

Business Growth through Training

The Government, through the Training Agency, is planning the introduction from next spring of a £1.4 billion programme, Business Growth through Training, that will co-ordinate the help available to companies. A number of related services and other support schemes will be available within this new initiative.

They include help to people who are self-employed or own their own firms, in order to stimulate the provision of relevant, flexible and accessible training for busy owner-managers; help to small businesses to plan and implement the training and development of their employees; and targeted help to industrial training organizations.

Technical and Vocational Education Initiative TVEI will continue to prepare young people for working life by making what they learn at school, and the way in which they learn it, more relevant to the world of work. Every education authority in Britain is now involved in TVEI.

Work-Related Further Education Programme

The Government will press ahead with this programme in England and Wales. It provides incentives and help to the public sector to respond more rapidly to the changing needs of employers.

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Currie statement on egg danger sharply criticized

Mrs Edwina Currie's remark at the weekend that most of Britain's egg production is affected by salmonella was severely criticized by MPs on all sides of the Commons after a statement by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health.

His Labour opposite number, Mr Robin Cook, said that since his Under Secretary's embarrassment quotient clearly exceeded her entertainment value, it was about time that Mr Clarke removed such a big obstacle to taking his department seriously.

In his statement, Mr Clarke said that his department had issued guidance on August 26 and November 21 about salmonella and eggs.

He had been advised by the Government's Chief Medical Officer that up to the end of October there had been 46 reported outbreaks of salmonella poisoning in England and Wales, involving about eleven cases in which the most likely source of infection was uncooked or partly cooked eggs.

Recent studies indicated that some sporadic cases of salmonellosis had also been caused by eggs. It was likely that these figures underestimated the total number of people affected.

The Chief Medical Officer was today repeating his advice to the public not to eat raw eggs or uncooked foods made from them. He had also advised caterers to use pasteurized eggs in place of uncooked eggs.

Among the 46 outbreaks, some were associated with the consumption of lightly cooked eggs or foods containing them. "Although the risk of harm to any healthy individual from consuming a single egg is small, it is advisable for vulnerable people, such as the elderly, the sick, babies and pregnant women, to consume only eggs cooked until the white and the yolk are solid."

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was publishing today details of a voluntary code to reduce the risk of

SALMONELLA

Football pledge

Mr Robert Hicks (Cornwall South East, C) asked for an assurance that the next time he and Mr Clarke attended a football match together they would have their customary lunch of beer, cigars and a couple of scotch eggs - some of which Mrs Currie seemed to agree with (laughter)?

Mr Clarke: I will continue to consume the same things I customarily eat at a football match. They would alarm a number of my friends, but I intend to persist.

salmonella infection in poultry breeding flocks.

It should be remembered that 30 million eggs were eaten every day, and the risk of any individual's becoming ill was small. Nevertheless, there were grounds for concern and my department, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the poultry industry were "working closely together to tackle it".

Sir Hal Miller (Bromsgrove, C) asked Mr Clarke to reconfirm that the 46 outbreaks related to a consumption this year of nine billion eggs.

"Does he realize the consternation and anger caused by Mrs Currie's rather rash statement?"

"There are signs in Birmingham Market today advertising 'Dutch eggs - salmonella free' (laughter). At the pub where I stopped for breakfast in the Cotswolds the landlady overcooked the eggs because of the salmonella scare. It is time that something was done to put an end to this uncertainty."

Mr Clarke: We must keep this in proportion (laughter). There is some genuine concern in this country and abroad about the increased incidence of salmonella from eggs.

Nevertheless, I agree with him that there is a vast egg consumption in this country. The risk to any healthy adult

particularly is very small indeed.

This is an international problem. So anyone advertising that overseas eggs are somehow any safer than ours is plainly wrong. He said that he had noticed that Mrs Currie had already drawn attention to this problem at the weekend.

"The House should reflect that Mrs Currie was indeed talking about a serious matter on which my department has already issued public health advice twice this autumn, and her words have served to draw further attention to the problem and, I trust, warned those who are vulnerable to infection if they eat raw or uncooked eggs."

Mr Clarke added amid laughter: "Nevertheless, I am going to carry on eating eggs. I am sure Sir Hal will carry on eating eggs. The Chief Medical Officer told me that he had an egg sandwich for lunch."

Mr Cook reminded Mr Clarke that the department's guidance on November 21 said that the risk to any individual was likely to be small.

How did he square that with Mrs Currie's claim that most of the egg production in this country was now infected? Was Mr Clarke content to preside over a department which issued two sets of totally contradictory advice in two weeks?

Was not the lesson that this Government would let Mrs Currie insult pensioners and caricature northerners, but stubbing the toes of the National Farmers' Union was going too far?

Mr Clarke said that his department had been consistent in its assessment of the risk of salmonella.

"Mrs Currie is in my view an extremely valuable member of the team in this department and in the Government. It may be that there are many members in this House who are a little envious of her natural gift for obtaining publicity."

Mr Richard Lacey (Breckon and Radnor, Dem) said that Mrs Currie's statement had created a tremendous loss of confidence in the egg industry.



Mr Michael Pettman, the Social Democrat candidate in the Epping by-election, in discussion with voters yesterday.

Minister hopes Mappa Mundi can be withdrawn from sale

A hope that a solution could be found to the Mappa Mundi problem which would lead to its withdrawal from sale was expressed by Mr Richard Lacey, Minister for the Arts, during question time.

Opposition MPs, however, were concerned at his emphasizing the need for market forces to be preserved.

Mr Simon Hughes, SLD spokesman on education, had asked the minister to ensure that the Mappa Mundi was retained by the cathedral for public display in Hereford.

Mr Lacey replied that he was keeping in close touch with developments and, in particular, noted that Hereford City Council had taken a positive approach to the problem of the potential sale.

Mr Patrick Cormack, MP, chairman of the all-party heritage committee, had had an informal meeting with the Dean of Hereford, Lord Charteris, chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund; Lord Gower, chairman of Sotheby's; and Mr Colin Shepherd, MP for Hereford, who was playing a constructive role.

He understood that the dean and chapter had met that day to consider the situation

and, in the light of all that, he hoped that a constructive solution could be found.

Mr Hughes asked for confirmation that the dean and chapter had now said that until the matter was resolved they had no plans to review their decision to sell.

"In that event, what is required from the minister is a clear announcement today that the Government support the retention of the Mappa Mundi in Hereford Cathedral. Will he work with the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the British Library to be sure that monies are forthcoming and that no stone is left unturned to ensure that it returns to where it was created and belongs, and that it is not sold off to bidders offering the highest price?"

Mr Lacey said that he did not know precisely what had been discussed today. The chairman of the heritage fund, who had taxpayers' money at his disposal, had indicated that he would be prepared to take a role in this.

Experience had shown that where an object deserved retention, the most sensible basis for a solution was an effective

partnership between the public and the private sector.

Mr Colin Shepherd (Hereford, C) asked whether the minister would agree to meet the dean and chapter if they sought a meeting and Mr Lacey said that he would.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C) said that he had spoken to Lord Charteris and to the Hereford chapter clerk and everyone concerned was desperately anxious to see a solution which left the map at Hereford, but also did something about the cathedral's problems.

Mr Lacey must leave it to the judgement of Lord Charteris (Opposition protests).

Mr Mark Fisher, Opposition spokesman for the arts, said that if the minister failed to respond, the House would have to believe that the Government was introducing market forces to that area of policy.

Mr Lacey: I cannot see how he makes that assumption from my remarks about the Mappa Mundi and its importance. I hope that a solution can be found that will lead to withdrawal of the map from auction. Preserving it in this country is important and all parties must work to that end.

'Resign' call over speech

A Labour MP called on Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales, to do the honourable thing and resign after the minister's reportedly critical speech of the Chancellor's interest rate policy.

Mr Ronald Davies (Caerphilly, Lab) said that Mr Walker was said to have referred to the Chancellor as incompetent in his speech at the weekend to the Carlton Club. "If he is to represent the true interests of the people of Wales, does he think he has any honourable course of action other than to resign?"

Mr Walker doubted whether Mr Davies would ever gain admission to the Carlton Club (Conservative laughter). The version of his speech which was in *The Observer* was "totally the invention" of *The Observer*.

'Criminals' condemned

The criminal and stupid activities of those protesting against second homes in Wales did immense damage to the good name of the principality, Mr Ian Grist, Under Secretary, Welsh Office, said at questions. They harmed the cause they claimed to support.

He was replying to a request by Mr Dafydd Thomas (Meirionnydd Nant Conwy, Pl C) to join condemnation of all forms of violent action on the housing issue.

British share in world trade

Britain's share of total world trade in manufactures in 1988 was expected to be a little over 6 per cent, Mr Alan Clark, Minister for Trade, said in a written answer. Britain's receipts from world invisible earnings was second only to the United States.

Sewage rules on the way

Statutory regulations to control the spread of sewage sludge on agricultural land will be introduced next year, Mr Donald Thompson, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, said in a written answer. It will be backed by a code of practice.

TV advert on smoke alarms

A television advertising campaign to encourage the public to install smoke alarms at home will start on Boxing Day, Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said in a written answer.

M4 progress

Mr Wyn Roberts, Minister of State for Wales, said during questions that work on the remaining section of the M4 between Baglan and Llanas near Swansea was expected to start next year. The contract would probably be let in sections.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Employment; Prime Minister; Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill, second reading. Lords (2.30): Children Bill, second reading.

Bill will demand declaration against Ulster terrorism

N IRELAND

The Government's objectives for Northern Ireland were shared by most people there who wished for nothing more than an end to violence, for a better chance and for a better and safer life for themselves and their families, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, told the Commons.

Moving the second reading of the Electoral Authorities (Northern Ireland) Bill, Mr King said that the measure had to be seen in the context of the Government's aims for the province.

The Bill provides that anyone standing for election in Northern Ireland had to declare that he or she did not support violence or banned organizations.

He said that the Government wanted to have fairness and justice for Ulster people and to ensure an effective response to the evil of terrorism, better protection for the rights of the community and respect for the rights of individuals.

The Government desired, too, better job prospects, better housing and education, proper health care, improved community relations and tolerance.

The Government paid great

attention to such issues as economic development and took pride in the fall in unemployment.

It took pride in the confidence of the many companies in Northern Ireland that had much increased investment in the past year, so further improving the employment prospects.

It was pleased to see companies coming from overseas. It was determined to maintain industrial development and investment in the province.

"We want more jobs and we want at the same time to ensure that they are free from any discrimination in their distribution and that we fairly give these opportunities across communities, regardless of religion or opinion."

The measure before the House dealt with people's interests and concerns on matters where terrorism and support for violence posed a challenge to democracy and society.

The Government had taken steps on law and order to ensure

that the work of the security forces for the community was as effective as possible.

Measures introduced by the Government offered protection to the community by providing the security forces with the proper instruments to discharge their responsibilities.

The first two clauses of the Bill brought the franchise for district elections in Northern Ireland broadly into line with that for Parliament.

They swept away legislation that was widely perceived as discriminating against the minority.

The clauses providing for the declaration against terrorism also applied to those co-opted to fill casual vacancies.

They would all be required to declare that if elected they would not express support for, or approval of, proscribed organizations or acts of terrorism.

The clauses also defined those who could apply to courts for a determination that a councillor had been in breach of the declaration and, if that determination were granted, the person would be disqualified from councils and the Northern Ireland Assembly for five years.

Training White Paper

Lack of skills 'the big obstacle'

EMPLOYERS' TASK

With the fall in the number of young people joining the workforce during the next decade, the greatest obstacle to employment growth was likely to be the lack of skills, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, told MPs.

In a statement outlining his White Paper proposals for training, he said that employers would have to look increasingly to women, unemployed people and older workers. Employers had to undertake a huge retraining effort if the economy was to have the skilled workers it needed.

The White Paper described a radically new training framework. International competition was fierce and the old methods of training had not been successful. "For the 1990s, success in training is the best guarantee of jobs and continued growth."

Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, said that the Opposition fully accepted that an important training initiative was needed urgently.

The CBI was now reporting that a huge and growing skills gap was limiting output in one-third of companies, constraining investment in nearly one-half and more than two out of five companies expected it to get worse.

Yet Mr Fowler was proposing that employers, who had shown little or no foresight or will in meeting their training needs,

should be the very people to be put into the driving seat.

Employers, who had persistently refused to spend enough of their money on training their employees, were being put in undisputed control of £3 billion of public money to train others. It was rather like putting Barlow Clowes in charge of investment protection.

Britain's successful competitors were moving in the opposite direction by adopting a national training strategy based on an overall skills audit to meet the needs of industry, ensuring that employers adequately invested in training.

"This Government, in its fourth re-structuring of adult training within nine months, is now passing the buck to a series of unrepresentative and unaccountable local quangos."

Would the White Paper add a single extra penny of new money to the budget of Employment Training which was widely acknowledged to be grossly underfunded? What provision was there to ensure that employers would be spending a penny more on training?

Would not the removal of the training levy through the abolition of the statutory powers of the industrial training boards actually reduce employer spending?

These proposals were based on United States experience, but, while lifting their ideas, Mr Fowler was omitting the legal safeguards against job substitution.

to confront and overcome the huge skills gap facing this nation.

"The Chancellor has often spoken in the past of a low-pay, low-skill, low-tech economy. This White Paper will help to deliver that objective."

Mr Fowler said that he was not prepared to take lectures from Mr Meacher on training.

The Government's aim was to achieve a well trained professional workforce for the 1990s. The essence was to get more training by employers of their staff.

Mr Meacher should look at the chamber of commerce-based programmes in West Germany.


In this country, it was employers locally who knew the needs of the labour market and therefore the training needs. There would be no cut in resources.

Mr James Lester (Brixton, C) said that a period of continuity was necessary to get the message across to local communities that training was an essential part of any company.

Mr Fowler said that the training and enterprise boards would be responsible for encouraging involvement. "For the first time we will bring together training for employed and unemployed people. The crucial part of these proposals is that it is to be done at a local level. That is where progress is being made."



Mr Lester. Period of continuity needed



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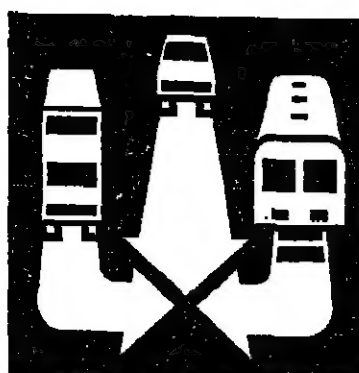
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SPECTRUM

Pouring money down the tube?



GETTING LONDON MOVING

Part 2: Public transport by the year 2001

One of the more common advertisements on the platforms of the London Underground depicts a scene from the Tokyo subway. It shows a stocky little official squeezing passengers through the door of a tube train.

The delicacy of his white gloves, out of deference to the travellers' smart office clothes, makes an odd contrast with the bullish force exerted by his diagonal body. Whatever it is advertising, the poster seems to be a subliminal warning from the operators of London's creaking tube system — things could be worse.

Until recently, Underground travellers had become used to comparatively low levels of congestion. Between 1961 and 1981 more than 340,000 jobs had disappeared in central London because of decentralization and, later, recession. The population dropped by a million. Car ownership in the area also rose from 36.5 per cent to 57.4 per cent of households. Rail, tube and buses were all in decline and public transport chiefs were desperate for more business.

But since 1982, that has been reversed. The economic boom has brought extra jobs, mainly in the financial and professional sector. The population of central London is rising once more and the number of commuters arriving during the morning peak is up by 15 per cent.

The increased congestion on the roads and a more attractive Travelcard ticket system have, in the past five years, prompted a huge switch from road to rail and later to Underground, which has had a 70 per cent increase in passengers. Since 1984 there has even been a 10 per cent growth in the use of buses, a reversal of a long historic decline.

Official forecasts for the years to 2001 are that transport problems will worsen. Car ownership is

London's economic boom has placed an even greater strain on the Underground and Paul Valley discovers that unless we spend more, the future is even bleaker

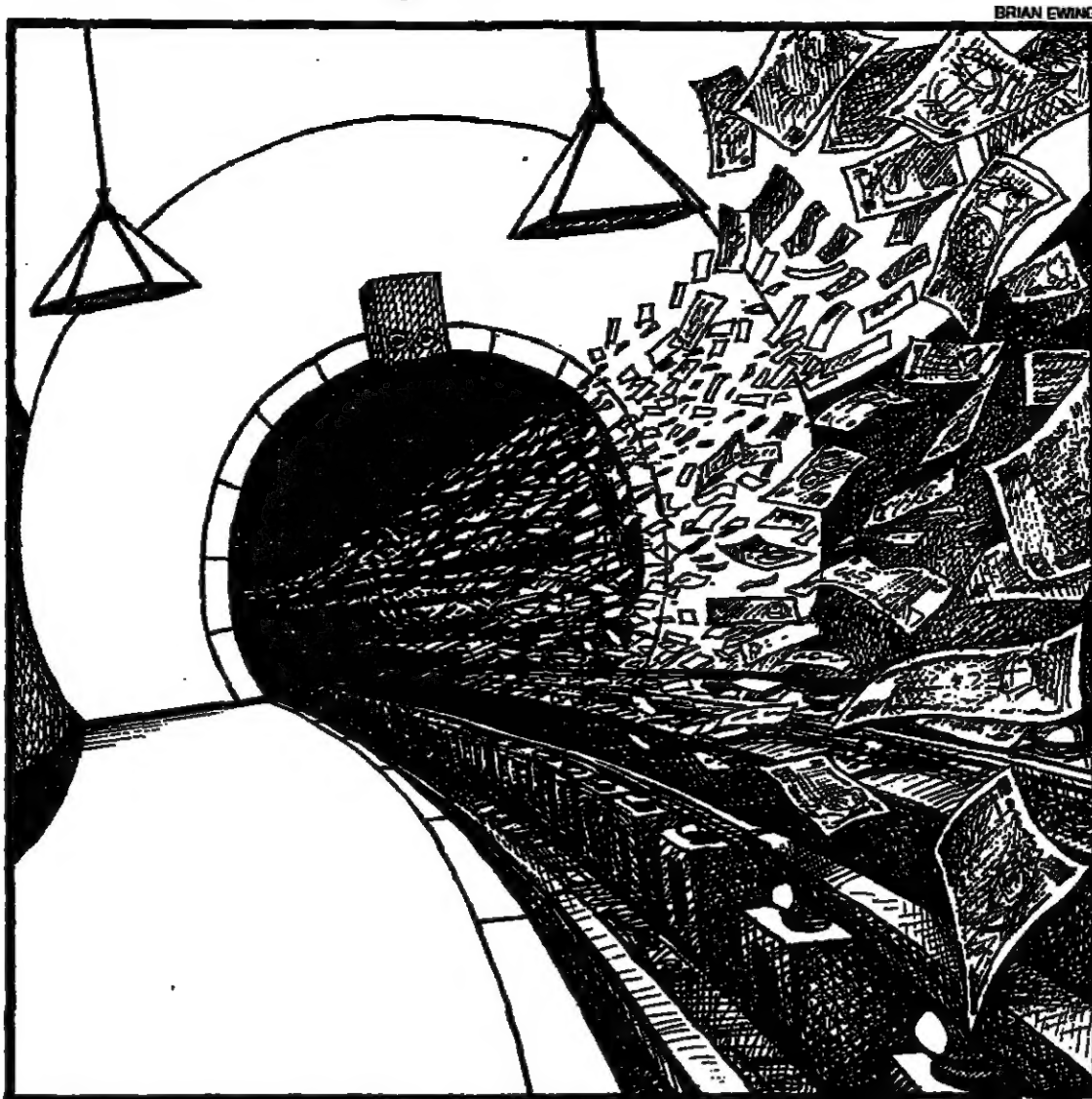
predicted to rise by 30 per cent and population will probably grow to a record level. Central London and Docklands expect 180,000 extra jobs. The increased demand on rail and tube will burst the present transport system unless there is huge investment.

The history of public transport in London has been one of persistent neglect and under-investment for almost four decades. Stuart Cole, principal lecturer in transport economics at the Business School of North London Polytechnic, says this is partly because the Department of Transport is dominated by road-builders and partly because of Treasury reluctance to spend the necessary sums when demand was declining.

"New lines require huge amounts of money — we probably need to spend about £5 billion now — and governments of all political shades have refused to invest on that scale because there are no votes in such long-term investment," he says.

London Underground seems to have suffered particularly badly from lack of investment in the 1970s, when passengers declined, and in the early 1980s, when it became a political football. Since it was removed from the grasp of the Greater London Council, the government has allowed more investment, with some results.

But it is not serious money. Even in the 1960s and 1970s, it cost £3 billion to rejuvenate the Paris Metro and create a regional railway network. Maintaining public transport systems is expensive, especially where much of the equipment is more than 50 years old. David Bayliss, director of planning at London Regional Transport, says: "The annual cost of just keeping up or replacing like for like, is £130 million a year. But that's not enough to keep up with the growth in congestion."



On such levels of investment, government policy is, in the words of Peter Hall, Professor of Geography at Reading University, tantamount to saying to residents and businesses: "It's a big city; if you don't like all the traffic, move."

In response to the growing concern, the government has commissioned the Central London Rail Study, which should have been published in July but is now expected early next year. Inside reports indicate that it will recommend between £2 billion and £3 billion on improvements to station facilities and three new lines across London — east to west, north to south, and the centre to Docklands.

Without this, the prediction is that by 2001 inner-city congestion will spread to suburbs as far apart as Wansley, Highgate, Wembley, Ealing, Putney and Clapham, and more than 20 central London stations will have to operate a rationing system to prevent overloading. Dr Martin Mogridge of the

Transport Studies Group at University College, London, in his own already-published report on the subject, recommends 18 different new lines or extensions to existing ones, to create a rapid express railway system like that in Paris. Complemented by a new lorry route to link up with the Channel Tunnel, it could cost about £10 billion over a 20-year period.

There is no sense of urgency in Conservative circles: no parliamentary time has apparently been found in the current session for a bill to permit the construction of a line from Waterloo to London Bridge to Docklands, even though a private developer, Olympia & York, has offered to raise £180 million towards the £460 million project.

A substantial input of private capital would obviously make such high investment more attractive to the government. Olympia & York is undertaking to arrange £100 million of equity and £80 million on commercial terms against operating revenue because, as its planning

director Michael Dennis acknowledges, the new line would almost double the value of the firm's investment in Docklands' Canary Wharf area.

But most transport planners maintain — and the Secretary of State for Transport, Paul Channon, is said to accept — that the bulk of any investment will have to come from the public purse.

The traditional corollary would be to provide straightforward capital grants. There is still a significant lobby for such an approach, which argues that the government should provide rail and tube infrastructure, just as it provides roads, and then expect transport chiefs to operate commercially.

But there is another option: to charge for the use of roads and then use the revenue to pay for the improvements in public transport.

TOMORROW

A charge for the roads

LONG HAUL ON THE CENTRAL LINE

From time to time the various strands that make up the tangle of the London Underground system come, quite literally, to the end of the line. After 30 years of relentlessly mounting use, the rolling stock and signalling systems reach the point where repair becomes more expensive, and less efficient, than wholesale replacement.

Unless something is done at that point, the afflicted line will, just like a clogged overhead artery on the face of the metropolis, start to impair the efficiency of the rest of the system. The Central Line has reached that point; with its daily burden of half a million passengers, and an hourly flow of 27,000 humans along the stretch between Oxford Circus and Bank, chaos and despair are but a signal failure away.

Between now and 1995, a nocturnal army will set to work on the installation of a new signalling system along the 40-odd miles of track between West Ruislip at the western extremity and the open Essex countryside to the east. That apparently long span is explained by the short working hours available between the last and first trains, and the overriding need to keep the Central operating normally throughout.

Of the £720 million to be spent on the line over five years, the bulk will go on new rolling stock. The London Underground is taking tenders from four manufacturing companies — two British, one West German, and one from Japan.

When the whole operation is complete, the line — whose central section was built 125 years ago — will have 85 airy new trains with greatly increased top speeds and acceleration. This will mean, in theory, an average reduction of 12 per cent in journey times.

You only have to glance at the tube map — not the famous stylized plan which takes such liberties with the alignments — to see how this will benefit users of that interminable red tumbler. The line may be the Central, but it is in reality a thoroughly eccentric amalgam of different tracks from different periods, joined in places by hairpins of linking track.

The man who has the job, as yet without a formal title, of co-ordinating the refurbishment plan, is Dr Roger Aylwood, aged 44. He has

been with the Underground for 10 years, before which he was a lecturer in mechanical engineering at Liverpool University. What is more, he would be stuck without the tube since he comes in from Amersham, that Metro-dependent town in the heart of Betjeman country.

"The increase in the use of the underground is alarming," he says in his Covent Garden office. "The unofficial estimates say that it has gone up by 1.5 per cent in the past six months. The Central Line has exhausted the limits of its infrastructure and we have somehow to keep ahead of the situation."

"With the Underground as a whole, there are only a limited number of choices open to us. Either we can try and get by with endless repairs, but that is inconvenient, expensive, and in the end will not solve the basic problem. The second alternative is simply to build new railways, with all the massive expense which that entails. The third alternative is to reduce passenger numbers by pricing people out of the market. That, of course, is not only politically unacceptable, it is also quite wrong; our job is to enable people to get to work, not to keep them from it."

As far as the Central Line is concerned, whatever solutions Aylwood and his colleagues devise, they always seem to snub their collective toe on the impasse that is Liverpool Street, one of the most overcrowded intersections in the network. Even the notion of building an extra platform there has foundered because of the subterranean jungle of sewers, drains and construction piles which the area has become.

"In the end we have decided to go for the option of installing a new set of escalators at the other end of the platform, so that the crowds will disperse more quickly," he says. "We also hope that the design of the new trains will make it easier for passengers to move down into the centre of the carriage. It is the crowding at the mouth of the doors that makes the stops so long during rush-hour. The trains themselves can only play a limited part in getting people more quickly from A to B. If they don't then help themselves, there's not much more we can do."

Alan Franks

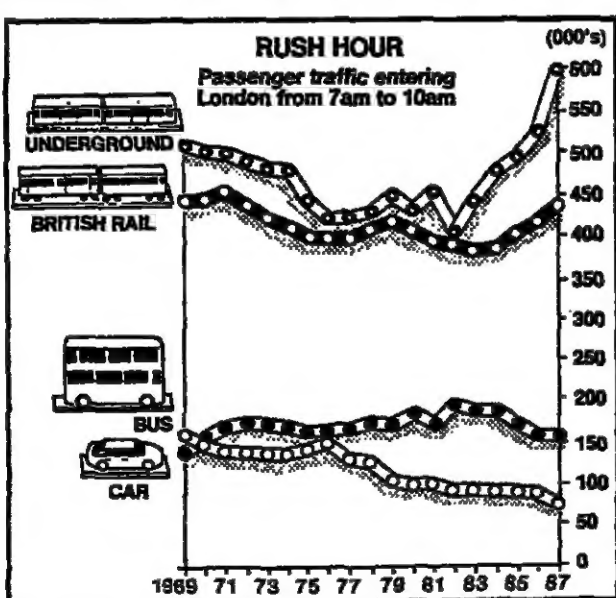
PLAYING A CARD THAT CAME UP TRUMPS AND WAS THE TICKET TO RIDE

The Travelcard was London Underground marketing men's answer to the steady decline in passengers. It offered unlimited travel within specified areas and the convenience of not having to queue for tickets. They thought they would sell about 100,000 a year.

Almost a million Travelcards were sold last year. The success has coincided with an increase in passengers, prompted by London's re-invigorated economic activity. All at once the Travelcard has become a double-edged strategy.

There is a correlation between fares on public transport and congestion. In 1981, when the Underground instituted its Fares Fair policy, ticket prices were cut by 31 per cent. As a result, there were 33,000 more tube journeys and the number of commuters entering London by car dropped by 12,000, proving that cost, not just journey-time, was a crucial factor in the choice of travel.

In 1982, after Bromley Council, which had no tube stations, successfully asked



the courts to rule the policy illegal, fare rose by 100 per cent overnight. The result: 59,000 fewer arrivals by tube and 37,000 more by car. In 1983, when the courts ruled

that fares could be reduced, but by a smaller amount, ticket prices were reduced by 27 per cent; tube journeys went up by 38,000; and cars went down by 23,000.

The shift produced, by a smaller cut in fares, was more dramatic because of the 'Travelcard Effect'.

London Transport chiefs were doubly pleased. The Travelcard generated new traffic, revenue increased, collecting costs were reduced and travel during the off-peak period grew.

David Bayliss, of London Regional Transport, says it also reduced fraud almost by half: "Removing single tickets removed the temptation to fiddle." The problem was, he adds, that "when it was introduced it was taking up slack, but now we're having to increase capacity to cope, and that hurts".

What must follow from that, say senior policy-makers at London Regional Transport, is a review of fares which substantially increases them during peak-hours, as a kind of congestion tax, while maintaining cheap off-peak fares to make the service run economically then as well.

Paul Valley

A mix-up out of the blue

Colour words are very old and very curious. One of the puzzles is how our blue seems to come from the Latin *flavus*, which meant pale yellow or golden to the Romans. The English and Latin lexicographers say that the words are cognate or "probably related". But they sound pretty shifty about it. Classical words for colours are notoriously few and indefinite. But blue is so different from yellow that I wonder whether the colour shift may not have been caused by a simple misprint.

One of the key sources is the *Liber Mineralium* of Albertus Magnus or St Albert, which he wrote about 1250. In it Big Albert described the supposed medical and magical properties of minerals, and gave personal observations on where they are found and in what form, and so on. And he seems to have been wearing yellow-tinted specs. For example, he describes sapphires, our sapphire, as a clear yellow (*perspicuus flavus*) like the sky on a fine day. Albert described as *flavus* other stones that look blue to us, such as lapis lazuli and Hyacinthus (whether corundum or zircon).

His book was immensely popular and influential among

NEW WORDS FOR OLD

Are you a natural *flavus*, darling?

fortune-tellers, interpreters of dreams, and other intellectuals of the pop press. It was plagiarized and translated over and over again, in the same way that you can see an error perpetuated down the centuries in a newspaper archive.

For example, here from *The Mirror of Stones*, first published in 1750, is a straight lift from Grand Albert five centuries before: "Zumemellazuli, or Zemeck, but in Latin is the Stone Lazuli. This stone is yellow, of the Colour of the Sky when it is in its greatest Serenity, not transparent, and shines with golden Streaks; it sustains the Fire, and from its Beauty is called the celestial or stary Stone. Being prepared by Physicians, it cures melancholy disorders. There is also made of it a Colour called the Ultramarine Azure."

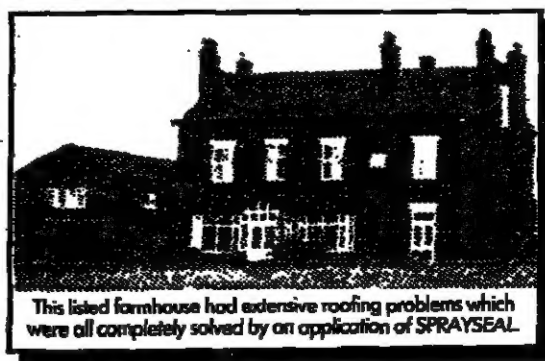
In classical Latin *flavus* is

used to describe honey, gold, sand, blondes such as Ganymede, and other things that are not obviously blue. How did yellow become blue? We could try saying that the Ancients were notoriously imprecise with their colour descriptions; for example, Virgil described swans as purple, Homer described bulls as *olivos* or wine-dark, purplish, and not to my eyes a very bluish colour. To that explanation I say: "Pull the other one, it's got bulls on it." You could say that *flavus* changed its meaning in the Middle Ages. You could say that Albert's Latin was not very good.

A better explanation is that it was a misprint, which can happen in the best-regulated publications. As far as there were nationalities in those days, Albert was essentially

Philip Howard

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Ex-chief minister to do penance

Amritsar (Reuters) — The former Punjab Chief Minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, accepted a humiliating series of punishments from the five head priests of the Sikh religion yesterday to end his excommunication, Sikh officials said.

The punishments — including seven days of kitchen work and cleaning shoes — were the price demanded by the priests to lift the excommunication they imposed on him last year. His acceptance of them clears the way for unity of the main Sikh political party, the Akali Dal.

Mr Barnala was Chief Minister of the violence-torn north Indian state from 1985 until May 1987, when the central Government in Delhi sacked him and imposed direct rule to tackle a violent Sikh separatist campaign. Mr Barnala was then excommunicated for defying an order to dissolve his faction of the Akali Dal and join others to present a united front to Delhi.

His punishments include five 48-hour non-stop recitals of the Sikh holy book, sweeping floors and washing utensils in temples and communal kitchens, and cleaning the shoes of visitors to the Golden Temple for seven days.

Gulf airliner reply

Washington — America yesterday issued a detailed reply to the report by the International Civil Aviation Organization on the shooting down by a US Navy ship in the Gulf in July of an Iranian civil airliner (Christopher Thomas writes). All 290 people on board were killed. No details are available, but the US is unlikely to disagree with the organization's findings. The Pentagon itself concluded that US ships were insufficiently prepared to identify civilian aircraft.

55 killed in stampede

Yaounde (Reuters) — At least 55 panic-stricken children were trampled to death or suffocated and about 100 injured in a stampede at a school in the Cameroun capital yesterday. Doctors said the final death toll could be higher because many seriously injured pupils were still being treated.

Yaounde radio quoted witnesses as saying the stampede, the cause of which was not clear, took place in a crowded five-storey building of the Institut Privé.

Kosovo bows to Serbs

Belgrade (Reuters) — The Communist Party in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province yesterday decided against the re-instatement of two ousted ethnic Albanian leaders who were blamed by Belgrade for being soft on separatists. The Party Committee turned down the re-instatement of the province's former party chief, Mrs Kacusa Jasari, and of a Politburo member, Mr Azem Vlasi. Their removal last month triggered a wave of ethnic Albanian protests.

Secret satellite launch

Cape Canaveral (AP) — The crew of the space shuttle Atlantis deployed a powerful radar satellite over the weekend, reported to have been the chief goal of the secret military space mission. According to informed sources, the Lacrosse satellite was designed to gather extremely sharp all-weather images of Soviet bloc military targets and would help US intelligence agencies to monitor Soviet compliance with arms control treaties.

Shamir tries again

Jerusalem (AP) — President Herzog yesterday granted Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister and Likud leader, a three-week extension to form a coalition government and urged him to try again with the rival Labour Party. Mr Shamir's chances of forming a coalition without Labour have improved after spiritual advisers of the Agudat Israel party said it should renew talks with Likud.

South Africa jails youngest conscientious objector



Charles Bester, aged 18, South Africa's youngest campaigner against conscription, being accompanied into the Johannesburg magistrate's court yesterday by his parents, Mr Antony and Mrs Judy Bester, before he was sent to prison for the maximum six years for refusing compulsory service in the Army.

Bester said his Christian conscience dictated that he could not, on political and moral grounds, participate in the "evil" perpetuated by the South African Defence Force (Ray Kennedy writes).

His faith taught him to love God and to love his neighbour, and the apartheid system had caused untold suffering and humiliation, he said.

Bester is the youngest person yet jailed in South Africa for refusing to do military service. All young white males — other races are not liable for conscription — must do two years' full-time service in the armed forces and are then

liable, over 12 years, to be called up for 720 days of periodic "camps", totalling four years' service in all.

Conscientious objectors must satisfy a board of examiners that they have profound religious grounds for not being called up, or they can ask to be allowed to do "alternative service" — usually low-paid welfare work outside the armed forces — for a total of six years.

Bester, a former voluntary worker for Africa Enterprise, an inter-racial Christian organization, pleaded not guilty to a charge of refusing to serve in the Army and a further charge of failing to report for service.

With Bester's parents in court was Dr Ivan Toms, who was freed from prison last week pending his appeal against a prison term of 630 days for refusing to report for an army camp. Dr Toms completed his full-time service in the Medical Corps.

Rhodes summit was 'a pause for breath on way to 1992'

González inherits thorniest EEC issues

From Richard Owen and Mario Modiano, Rhodes

As the EEC leaders left the fortified Crusader castle of the Knights of St John here after the two-day summit meeting, President Mitterrand of France was heard to wish Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, "good luck" when he takes over the EEC presidency from Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, on January 1.

"France takes over from Spain in the second half of the year," one diplomat said. "Both González and Mitterrand know that Papandreu has bequeathed to them some of the thorniest issues still to be solved before the Single European Market in 1992."

The Rhodes meeting, marking the winding-up of the Greek six-month presidency, was a pause for breath at the halfway stage to 1992. Neither Mr Papandreu, presiding as host, nor Mrs Thatcher was looking for a fight over Community issues.

As Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, observed ruefully at the end of the meeting, Mrs Thatcher's energies had gone into airing her grievances with Belgium and Ireland over the Ryan

case, and she obviously did not want to fight on too many fronts at once.

As for Mr Papandreu, still recovering from open heart surgery, he was already defying doctor's orders by risking the strain of chairing a summit meeting. His fellow leaders treated him with compassion and took an indulgent view of his obvious infatuation with his mistress, Mrs Dimitra Liani, who was his official companion.

In Mrs Thatcher's words, the Community "took stock" in Rhodes and identified some of the priorities ahead.

EEC officials noted with evident satisfaction that by the end of this year half of the Internal Market programme would have been completed, "progress no-one would have dared to predict even a year ago".

M. Jacques Delors, President of the Commission, told the summit that the EEC was benefiting from investment-led growth, something Mrs Thatcher attributes to the kind of economic policies pursued by Britain.

The summit communiqué said that the 1992 process itself had created a new dynamism in the European econ-

omy, with "smooth, steady and dynamic development".

On the other hand it was acknowledged that many of the toughest problems are yet to come, and that the pace of work must be stepped up. As Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany remarked: "We will have to work hard. It is clear to everybody that the discussions at the Madrid

Athens (Reuters) — The American-born wife of Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, said yesterday she was ready to discuss divorce with him. "If Andreas is ready to talk to me about the divorce, I am glad. I asked him to do so long ago," Mrs Margaret Papandreu told journalists. The Socialist Prime Minister, aged 69, has made no secret of his relationship with Mrs Dimitra Liani, aged 34, who accompanied him to the European Community summit in Rhodes last weekend.

and Paris summits next year will not be as relaxed as this one."

Officials said that the reference in the communiqué to "appropriate harmonization or approximation where necessary" in the free movement of goods, services, capital and persons by 1992 could offer room for compromise — but equally arguments could arise over what was meant by "where necessary".

Despite the harmony in Rhodes, difficulties remain

between Britain and the other 11 nations.

Señor González said bluntly that he inclined toward the European idealism of M. Delors rather than to Mrs Thatcher's views, and he indicated that vexed questions such as the proposal for a European central bank would have to be addressed by the time of the Madrid summit, adding that EEC countries must surrender a degree of sovereignty to the EEC to ensure fiscal harmonization and currency co-ordination.

He identified the coming policy priorities as fiscal harmonization, the "social dimension" of 1992, monetary union, regional spending, cross-frontier television and increased powers for the European Parliament.

Rhodes saw a brief preliminary skirmish over proposals for the harmonization of tax-

ation, including VAT, with Mrs Thatcher strongly opposing the view put forward by M. Mitterrand that tax harmonization was a prerequisite for the full liberalization of capital movements across frontiers, planned for 1990.

"The market itself will deal with any changes that need to be made," the Prime Minister said, adding that tax harmonization was "neither necessary nor desirable."

Britain, The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark already had free capital flows with no need for tax harmonization.

On 1992 "social policy", which the Greeks had hoped to make a central platform of their presidency, the communiqué emphasized the need to combat unemployment and ensure safety in the workplace, as well as calling for a "systematic dialogue between management and labour at Community level". But it failed to mention either EEC schemes for worker participation or plans for an EEC company statute, both fiercely opposed by Mrs Thatcher.

Officials insisted after Rhodes that not only M. Delors but also the EEC

southern countries, including Spain, would continue to press vigorously for EEC-wide action on workers' rights.

On cross-border television, the summit called for co-operation to develop Europe's "audio-visual capacity". It endorsed a French proposal for "a truly European audio-visual market", including the free exchange of programmes within the EEC, and the promotion of high definition television systems.

The meeting also called for the encouragement of television programmes which would demonstrate "the richness and diversity of European culture".

Perhaps the most explosive 1992 issue still to be tackled is how far power should be transferred from national parliaments to the European Parliament as an integrated Europe takes shape.

Diplomats observed that France remained determined to keep the European Parliament debating chamber in Strasbourg. They considered that this, coupled with the fear among national MPs that they were losing sovereignty to the EEC, could cause more contention in the course of 1989.

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Orgasm — What it means for women	0898 200 949
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Debt threatens the fragile democracies of South America

From Mac Margolis
Rio de Janeiro

When some 400 disgruntled military men seized the Campo de Mayo Infantry School and Villa Martelli arsenal in Argentina last week, all of South America again held its collective breath.

Governments from Santiago to Paramaribo are gingerly walking the narrow path between long, dark periods of dictatorship and the largely untried practice of full institutional democracy.

This third and most serious military uprising in 18 months appears to have been a costly victory for President Alfonsín, who was set to celebrate the fifth anniversary of Argentina's return to democracy this week.

By the time the rebel soldiers surrendered to regular army troops on Sunday, the four-day showdown looked more like the pathetic, if violent, death throes of a spent authority than a serious

blow against constitutional rule. The brief pursuit had its own iconography and theatre. While the rebels demanded amnesty for officers sentenced for rights abuses and the removal of the armed forces commander, General Dante Caridi, soldiers in berets and black-face glared fiercely from battle tanks while journalists' cameras clicked and whirled.

The drama's protagonist, the ultra-nationalist Colonel Mohammad Ali Seineldin, fittingly declared again and again that he was prepared to take the rebellion "to its ultimate consequences". That nearly came to pass when government troops twice fired upon the rebels.

There was damage on both sides. Señor Alfonsín's ability to command was shaken when military charges repeatedly balked at his orders to snuff the revolt, and the rebel movement won only revisionism from Argentine society. When the shooting stopped, the

revolt collapsed; a martyr to its own lonely zeal.

There have been other versions of such desperate soldiers' bravura across the continent. In 1982, a group of malcontents sent elite anti-narcotics troops to kidnap the fumbling Bolivian President Dr Hernán Siles Zuazo, who was released nine hours later.

Late last year, in southern Brazil, an Army captain, Luiz Fernando de Almeida, led 50 troops in an invasion of a city hall, where he read a manifesto against the low salaries in the Army.

In these instances, law and constitutional order proved more resilient than their enemies. President Siles Zuazo resigned a year before his term was through, but passed the presidential sash to a democratically elected successor. In Brazil, a military court rewarded Captain De Almeida, not with a pay rise, but with three years in jail.

Even in Argentina, where the

"unreconstructed" military leaders speak loudest, the uprisings have ended where they began, in the confines of army barracks.

Last weekend, all political parties, including Señor Alfonsín's most ardent foes, roundly condemned the military revolt.

Though the continent's democracies are still fragile and fledgling, for now at least it is this splinter

● When the shooting stopped the revolt collapsed, a martyr to its own lonely zeal ●

groups of soldiers, not the civilians, who have been tarnished by their repeated challenges to democratic rule. September's plebiscite in Chile, in which voters rejected another eight-year presidential term for the continent's most prominent dictator, General Au-

gusto Pinochet, was a clear sign that those who rule with an iron hand may also stand on clay feet.

The last Argentine uprising was denounced across the continent and, indeed across the oceans. "History repeats itself as farce," wrote one Brazilian newspaper. But democracy may not yet be out of harm's way.

In fact, the spectre of the week's tumultuous events only helped to highlight President Alfonsín's urgent message to the United Nations last week. He told the world forum that the imminent threat to Latin democracies did not come from fanatics in uniform and war-paint, but something more insidious: foreign debt.

Latin and Caribbean nations hold \$420 billion (about £230 billion) in foreign debt, fully a third of what the poor world owes the rich. Since the debt crisis broke six years ago, virtually all the Latin societies have suffered plunging terms of trade, sluggish

economic growth, rising urban crime, lost opportunity and dashed hopes.

Between 1982 and 1987, this capital-starved region actually made a net transfer of its wealth (nearly 4 per cent of its entire gross domestic product) to creditors abroad. Per capita income has fallen to 1970s levels, while the population has continued to grow.

Many Latin leaders, economists, and bankers alike have already written off the 1980s as a "lost decade" for Latin America. The blame may be passed between profligate governments who spend more than they have, and unbending creditors, who insist on collecting more than debtor countries can afford.

But the resulting economic crisis has in turn provoked political discontent, opening the way for extremists on the left and right. In Argentina, the rumblings have come from the barracks. In Peru, the threat comes from the mystic

radical guerrilla group, the Shining Path, which has planted bombs and sown terror from Cuzco to Lima. In Brazil, it is the quixotic populists and *caudillos*, or personalist rulers, who have made dramatic advances.

For South American politics has followed a simple, stark rule. Economic disorder has contributed to the undoing of all regimes, both in military and civilian clothes. It hastened generals into power in the 1960s and the 1970s, and it had ushered them out again by the beginning of this decade. Nearly always, military coups have also been civilian ones.

The beleaguered Latin leaders argue that without restored economic opportunity, and the debt relief that could make that possible, restiveness and perhaps even more uprisings will spread. The next challenge to a Latin democracy could end not in prosaic farce but in a much sadder sort of reprise.

Argentine President under growing pressure to explain how uprising ended

Opposition suspects deal done without Alfonsín

From Michael Llanos, Buenos Aires

The Government of President Alfonsín was under fire yesterday from opposition politicians who wanted to know whether the Argentine Army and rebel officers had negotiated an amnesty to end a three-day mutiny on Sunday without the knowledge of the President.

The refusal yesterday, by Vice-President Víctor Martínez to say where Colonel Mohammad Ali Seineldin, the rebel leader, was being held added to the impression that Señor Alfonsín was not completely in control of the Army. A Defence Ministry spokesman refused to confirm whether Colonel Seineldin was even under arrest.

An army source said the colonel spent most of yesterday helping to supervise the dismantling of the rebel stronghold at the army munitions base at Villa Martelli, seven miles west of the capital.

The opposition, led by the Peronist movement, demanded to know Colonel Seineldin's whereabouts and whether he had negotiated a deal with the Army.

Military sources confirmed that the mutiny had ended after Colonel Seineldin met General Isidro Caceres, one of the loyal officers ordered by Señor Alfonsín to crush the rebellion.

The deal struck was said to include obtaining from the Government a full amnesty for all officers implicated in the 1970s "dirty war" against terrorism, as well as increased defence spending—improving officers' pay and allocating

more funds to keep equipment operational.

Señor Alfonsín has denied the granting of "concessions". Other signs which fuelled opposition suspicions of a deal behind Señor Alfonsín's back included:

● The Army High Command, not the Defence Ministry, was the first to announce that the rebel troops would lay down their arms.

● Loyal forces began withdrawing from the rebel stronghold at the Villa Martelli base a few hours before it was officially announced that the rebels would lay down their arms.

● The presidential spokesman, Señor José López, could not say why the President did not use the word surrender, instead using the phrase "laying down their arms", to refer to the end of the mutiny.

● An Army general went on the record defending the rebels' demands. General Adolfo Etcheam, head of the Army Air Transport Brigade in Córdoba province, said the demands "are the same as mine and the vast majority of the Army".

● Though Señor Alfonsín on Saturday night ordered the Army to "crush" the rebellion, the loyal troops only encircled the rebels almost a day later. Loyal troops never began a full assault on the rebels' bases—either at Villa Martelli, at the Army Infantry School where the rebellion started, or at the infantry base in Mercedes, 60 miles west of the capital.

● Colonel Seineldin was not



A mystery man, posing as a press photographer, pulling out a gun and fleeing from angry journalists, outside the rebel base in Buenos Aires, after they discovered he was an impostor. He was later beaten up by the crowd and then arrested by police.

stopped when he and a rebel convoy fled on Saturday from the Army Infantry School to the Villa Martelli.

Leading military analysis says it is likely that the Army and the rebels reached a deal.

Señor Carlos Raimondi expected the Government and the opposition Peronists to approve an amnesty—albeit under a different name—but not until after the presidential elections on May 14, 1989. "To do so now would only favour the far left," he said.

"There will be an amnesty because Argentina is a country of amnesties, we have some 30 such laws," Señor Raimondi declared. He added: "Then the Government can start resolv-

ing the problem by increasing military spending and salaries."

A human rights lawyer said the Government also had means to slow down the few human rights cases still pending which affect military officers. "The Supreme Court can suspend the trials as it has before," said Señor Horacio Méndez Carreiras.

Although Peronist leaders yesterday refused to accept an amnesty "imposed by the military" they did not rule out the possibility of such a law.

Señor Carlos Menem, the Peronist presidential candidate, acknowledged that an amnesty "is a fact that has to be reached through normal

channels". Señor Menem, the leading candidate in the polls, had been calling for a "pacification law"—a euphemism for an amnesty—long before the mutiny.

Some conservative members of the ruling Radical Party yesterday suggested that such a solution to the military crisis was inevitable. Señor Balbino Zubiri, the National deputy head of the lower house defence committee, said that the country "needs legislation to avoid this".

The leader of Argentina's third largest party, the Conservative Democratic Centre Union, urged the country to accept an amnesty. Deputy Señor Alvaro Alsogaray, the

Convincing win for Pérez in Venezuela poll

From Tony Bianchi, Caracas

Figures from Venezuela's Supreme Electoral Council yesterday confirmed that Señor Carlos Andrés Pérez, aged 66, a former President, won an unprecedented second term of office by a clear margin in Sunday's free presidential elections.

Results started to trickle in early yesterday, following the pattern projected by several television stations and giving Señor Pérez a comfortable 15 per cent lead over his nearest rival, Señor Eduardo Fernández of the Social Christian Party, Copei.

Señor Pérez, the candidate of the ruling Acción Democrática party, was quickly recognized as the victor by all the main opposing candidates.

In a short victory speech, he promised to work closely with other political parties and the private sector to solve Venezuela's economic problems, including a \$30 billion (about £16 billion) foreign debt.

He said that only servicing the debt according to the country's rate of export income would allow Venezuela to bridge the gap between the present economic slowdown and more prosperous times.

The President-elect has repeatedly promised to diversify from the basic and vital petroleum industry and attract foreign investment by stimulating the export of aluminium, steel, gold and semi-manufactured Venezuelan products.

Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets in the capital late on Sunday night to celebrate Señor Pérez's victory.

Señor Pérez is the seventh consecutive democratically elected President since the overthrow of the dictator, General Marcos Pérez Jiménez, in January, 1958.

He won his second term in a very bitter seven-month electoral campaign during which he had to face internal and

external opposition attacks. These included a constant reminder by his leading rival, Señor Fernández, that Señor Pérez was acquitted by Congress by only a small margin on charges of misappropriation of government funds during his previous government of 1974 to 1979.

Señor Fernández also claimed that Señor Pérez tried to sell the country short during his previous government by allegedly signing a secret treaty with Colombia allowing the neighbouring nation to exploit jointly with Venezuela the potentially oil-rich waters of the Gulf of Venezuela.

But Señor Pérez fended off all attacks, and the electorate came to regard the claims as political manoeuvres aimed simply at discrediting the ruling party's candidate.

Señor Pérez's victory is expected to be even more significant if results of the legislative elections continue to give government candidates a clear lead.

In an unexpected show of force, Acción Democrática votes were early today heading towards the 50 per cent mark, which would mean that the ruling party will retain its parliamentary majority.

Electoral officials expect to produce a final tally by late today. The President-elect will be inaugurated on February 2.



Señor Pérez: Second term with a 15 per cent margin.

The upside-down world of a superpower dinner

When President Reagan sits down for a farewell lunch with President Gorbachov tomorrow, historians will savour the extraordinary irony of events; never before have the leaders of the superpowers met under such changed circumstances.

The old President, accompanied by his successor, President-elect George Bush, will represent stability, continuity, orderly change, the much younger Mr Gorbachov—he did not even hold his present title the last time they met—comes from a country in turmoil, where a volcanic eruption of change appears to be blowing everything to the winds.

Constitutional power, economic systems, ethnic relations, concepts of freedom, democracy and human rights have all burst their settled bounds with explosive force.

And while the United States at last presents the world with a consistency in foreign and domestic policy all too absent in previous changes of administration, almost everything in

the Soviet Union is now unpredictable and precarious.

Last Friday, the very day Mr Bush was receiving Governor Michael Dukakis, his defeated political rival, in an unusually swift display of reconciliation and national unity, President Gorbachov had on his hands a series of crises unimaginable in the Soviet Union since the death of Lenin—rioting and near civil war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, a unilateral declaration of virtual independence by Estonia, an aircraft hijacking and a constitutional upheaval involving the Supreme Soviet voting itself into oblivion.

The traditional attitudes of the two presidents have been turned upside down.

Mr Reagan, who took office in a firestorm of anti-Soviet rhetoric, leaves with the glow of his Moscow summit now colouring his views and the support of those who favour détente. And while much of his domestic revolution is dissipated by pragmatism and

the fiscal vice, his new relationship with the Soviet Union grows daily stronger.

On the other hand, Mr Gorbachov, who inherited a political situation blinded by propaganda and frozen in outdated slogans of class warfare, is now visiting Wall Street, citadel of capitalism, and basks in near universal popularity in the West.

Europeans vote him the most admired world leader.

Washington View

By Michael Binyon

even in America, according to the latest poll, he comes ahead of Mr Brian Mulroney, Canada's Prime Minister, and behind Mrs Thatcher and the Pope as the foreign leader Americans most admire.

Moscow is deeply relieved that Mr Bush won the election. The Kremlin always finds it easier to do business with Western conservatives, who are a known factor, ideologically comprehensible

and more able than liberals and left-wingers to draw clear lines in their dealings with Moscow and honour the agreements they make.

But the Soviet Union is particularly pleased about Mr Bush. They desperately need a respite in foreign affairs, and would not have had time in the present turmoil to get to know a whole new inexperienced team of Democrats.

They know Mr Bush, they know many of his aides and are familiar with the positions on trade, arms control, human rights and world affairs which he endorsed as a member of the Reagan Administration.

On January 20, Inauguration Day, they will be able to continue, with barely a flicker of interruption, the discussions they were holding on January 19.

For his part, Mr Bush must be experiencing the kind of nervousness more usually felt by Soviet leaders when dealing with an incoming American administration. He has quickly dropped his

campaign mistrust of Moscow's intentions and the hardline rhetoric of negotiating from strength. He wants to push forward with arms agreements that would make it easier to cut the bloated Pentagon budget.

But can Mr Gorbachov deliver? Is his domestic situation out of control? Which officials now have the Soviet President's ear?

Mr Bush has trod gingerly in the internal Soviet minefield. He has not cheered on local nationalism or issued declarations of support for Baltic independence. He knows as well as Mr Gorbachov the dangers of centrifugal forces tearing the Soviet Union apart or pushing Eastern Europe into open revolt.

Americans have been surprised by the speed with which Mr Bush has made his key appointments, impressed by his air of relaxed authority, presidential bearing and clear displays of determination to do things his way. With the exception of defence, where a

battle royal is underway, the transition has been one of the smoothest ever. The retention of Mr Nicolas Brady marks the first time a Treasury Secretary has stayed on in a wholly new administration, other than when the President has died, since Andrew Mellon remained at his post to serve Herbert Hoover.

But who can now say the same about the Soviet Union? How many more party secretaries will be sacked if chaos continues in the Caucasus? Who will be left of the old guard if the reformers finally win? How many hardliners are waiting in case things go wrong for Mr Gorbachov?

The Reagan-Gorbachov meeting will have a touch of nostalgia for both men; but the presence of Mr Bush turns it into the first session of the new superpower dialogue. There will probably not be any new initiatives. Nor will it be the "testing" of Mr Bush that Americans always expect of the Soviet Union for their incoming presidents.

Taif talks may lead to Moscow link with Saudi Arabia

Nicosia (Reuters) — Soviet officials flew to the Saudi capital yesterday at the end of talks with Afghan Muslim insurgents, with both sides keeping silent on the outcome.

The arrival of the officials in Riyadh raised speculation that Moscow and the Soviet Union could, after 50 years, be moving towards resumption of diplomatic ties.

Diplomats had earlier suggested that the fact that staunchly anti-communist Saudi Arabia was the host for the Afghan talks led to the mountain resort of Taif could lead to a move. They said Saudi Arabia was already preparing to establish ties with China and has been steadily moving towards a more even-handed foreign policy after the

United States Congress repeatedly rejected its attempts to buy sophisticated American weapons.

The Soviet-Afghan talks were the first at high level between rebels and Soviet officials since Moscow intervened in Afghanistan in December, 1979. The two sides arrived on Friday, and yesterday the Saudi Press Agency said they had concluded their third and final round of negotiations on Sunday night.

Sources at the guest palace in Taif said the rebels had left on a pilgrimage to Mecca. The Soviet officials had gone to Riyadh, they said. The Soviet team was led by Mr Yuri Vorontsov, the Deputy Foreign Minister who is Moscow's Ambassador in Kabul, and the rebels by Mr

Burhamuddin Rabbani, leader of a seven-member insurgent alliance.

A senior Afghan government official said in Damascus that the Soviet delegation had been seeking the release of soldiers held prisoner, and the talks did not represent Soviet recognition of the Mujahidin.

● MOSCOW: Soviet troops used force on Sunday to clear crowds from the central square in the Azerbaijan capital, Baku, and protesters massed again in the city yesterday, an Azerbaijan official said.

Mr Elsin Bagirov, a spokesman for the Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry, said the troops acted after demonstrators ignored appeals to disperse (Reuters report).

"The troops used force and

cleared the square," he said. "Despite rumours to the contrary, I can state categorically no one was killed, but I am not sure about the numbers of injured."

Demonstrators were reassembling in Baku yesterday, many carrying black flags in response to rumours of deaths in Sunday's incident.

● No stand-in: In the face of internal problems from the Baltics to the Caucasus, President Gorbachov is taking no chances with the running of the country while he is in New York (A Correspondent writes).

The visit marks the first time he has decided it is best not to leave day-to-day domestic affairs in the hands of any one man. Until now, the man who took control was the

number two figure in the Politburo, Mr Yegor Ligachov, the arch conservative who often opposed Mr Gorbachov's drive for *glasnost* and has embarrassed him by making policy speeches in his absence.

It is not clear who will be in charge this time. "It will be interesting to see during the weekly meeting in his absence who really does deputise," a senior Moscow-based Nato diplomat said. "Western observers here imagine it will be a rotating clique of Politburo friends."

● Estonian veto: The parliament of the Baltic republic of Estonia yesterday defied Moscow in refusing to reopen discussions on its right to adapt last month of veto over Moscow laws.

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Continued on page 33

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Roh sacks 21 ministers to signal 'break with past'

From John Gittelsohn
Seoul

In an attempt to distance himself from his disgraced predecessor, President Roh of South Korea yesterday announced a sweeping Cabinet shake-up, replacing the Prime Minister and 20 of 23 other ministers.

The Opposition immediately signalled its dissatisfaction, claiming that the President did not go far enough in rooting out elements of the nation's repressive past. The two leading opposition parties vowed to block the nomination of the new Prime Minister, who must win a majority in the Opposition-dominated National Assembly to assume office.

Mr Roh had a difficult time finding new faces to fill his Cabinet, analysts said, because most people with experience suffer the stigma of having served in previous repressive regimes.

One woman was named to head the minor Ministry for Political Affairs. Most of the new appointees come from Mr Roh's native Kyongsang province, the source of Korean leaders for the past 150 years.

A statement from the President called the Cabinet shake-up a decisive break with the Government of former President Chun Doo Hwan, who has lived in a mountain Buddhist temple since apologizing last month for corruption and repression during his seven-year Fifth Republic. Ten outgoing ministers of Mr Roh's 10-month administration were from Mr Chun's regime.

Mr Roh has also promised to reorganize the ruling Democratic Justice Party and to release political prisoners in a package of reforms aimed at putting the Chun scandals to rest. Mr Chun and Mr Roh are lifelong comrades and the President is promoting his reform package in a drive to head off popular demand for Mr Chun's prosecution.

The Prime Minister-designate, Mr Kang Young Hoon, aged 66, is a moderate with a long record of opposing military involvement in politics. He was dismissed as Commander of the Korea Military Academy after criticizing the 1961 coup. A former general and diplomat, he



Mr Kang Young Hoon, a former diplomat, after being named Prime Minister yesterday.

served as Ambassador to Britain from 1981 to 1984.

"We are not opposing him as a person, but opposing the procedure of appointing him," said Mr Cho Soon Sung, an opposition assemblyman of the Party for Peace and Democracy. Under Korean law, the Prime Minister appoints all Cabinet members after the Parliament approves his nomination, a procedure which Mr Roh did not follow by naming the entire Cabinet yesterday.

Other controversial appointments in the new Cabinet include Mr Park Seh Jik, a former general who headed the Seoul Olympic organizing committee, who was named chief of the powerful National Security Planning Agency, formerly the Korean CIA.

Mr Park, aged 55, is seen as a moderate among the clique of generals who seized power in Mr Chun's 1980 coup.

Mr Lee Sang Hoon, a retired general, was named Minister of National Defence. Mr Lee graduated from the same Korea Military Academy class as Mr Chun and Mr Roh, but was not implicated in the

coup. Mr Kim Yong Gap, a hardline former general active in the coup, was retained as Government Affairs Minister.

● Communist envoy: A former Hungarian Ambassador to Pyongyang arrived in Seoul yesterday to head the first communist mission to South Korea (Reuters reports).

Mr Sandor Etre, who is to set up a permanent mission here, studied international relations at Kim Il Sung University in North Korea in the 1950s and was Ambassador to Pyongyang from 1979 to 1984.

Bangladesh disaster warning

Disease and hunger may raise cyclone death toll

From Edward Gorman, Dhaka

Relief officials gave a warning last night that the death toll from last week's cyclone in Bangladesh could rise dramatically unless prompt action was taken to combat the spread of disease and hunger in the worst affected area, the south-west.

Mr Salwar Rahman, director of operations for Oxfam in Bangladesh, said that the situation in coastal areas along the Bay of Bengal had become critical. In some areas of the south between 60 per cent and 80 per cent of houses had been destroyed. Independent estimates put the number of homes destroyed at more than one million, with an estimated seven million people now homeless.

"Another area of severe damage is crops," Mr Rahman said. "In many places the rice paddies, the main staple in the south, have been totally destroyed." According to Ministry of Agriculture sources, the storm has destroyed almost two million acres of rice with a further 3.3 million acres estimated to be damaged.

Official government figures still put the death toll below 2,000. But observers here say that figure is based on the actual number of bodies recovered. They say thousands more, mostly deep-sea fishermen and farmers making a

precious living on the partially submerged islands of the Ganges delta, may have been swept away.

One of the worst affected areas is likely to have been the world's largest mangrove swamp in the extreme south-western corner of the country known as Sunder Bans or Beautiful Forest. This remote region is visited, sometimes for up to a month at a time, by collectors of honey and round leaves for roofing or *gol patta*. It will probably never be known how many people died there last Tuesday.

Clearly the difficulty of estimating the extent of the disaster is being exacerbated by the total absence of reliable data on population.

Mr Rahman, whose organization is already working at full stretch to counter the catastrophic impact of flooding in August and September which submerged almost 70 per cent of the country, says it is now essential that reconstruction and replanting begin immediately in the south.

It is clear, however, that the extent of the crisis could have been much worse. Improved warning systems in the southern Khulna district meant that many people with transistor radios, alerted by government broadcasts, had two days to move inland as the storm

approached. The tidal surge was also much lower than in cyclones in 1970 and 1985.

Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud, Minister for Flood Control in President Ershad's Government, said yesterday that he was confident Bangladesh could supply effective relief for victims of the cyclone and that a new effort by foreign donor nations would not be required.

He said that government food stocks, already feeding 20 million affected by the earlier flooding, were adequate. What was needed, he said, was not emergency relief supplies, but long-term funding for reconstruction and for vital flood control schemes.

"Our major worry is how to bring about some structural changes so we can at least mitigate against the extent of floods," he said.

Mr Mahmud is a key member of the National Disaster Prevention Council set up by the President in September to look at ways of fighting the almost annual natural catastrophes afflicting this country.

The Minister said that proposals under discussion included the construction of helipads, two-storey schools which could be used as evacuation points, and new flood warning and forecasting systems.

Tamil guerrillas take power

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

Eighteen months ago, Lieutenant-General Nalin Seneviratne was commander of the Sri Lankan Army, matching his wits against Tamil guerrillas, including members of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, who were fighting violently for a separate state called Eelam.

Yesterday at Trincomalee, as Governor of the combined Northern and Eastern provinces, he swore in 37 members of the Front, and 27 members of another guerrilla group, as members of the newly constituted provincial council.

The 17 members of the Sri Lankan Muslim Congress and the solitary member of President Jayewardene's United National Party who also won seats in provincial council elections last month did not attend the ceremony.

There was tight security by the 50,000-strong Indian peacekeeping force which is in the provinces to disarm the main guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The Tigers had threatened to disrupt the polls but the voters of the Eastern Province dealt their prestige a blow by turning up in strength.

The new Chief Minister of the Northern and Eastern provinces is Mr Annamalai Varatharajah Perumal, aged 35, who will be sworn in

before President Jayewardene on Friday.

He said that separatism was never their slogan: "What we fought for was the right to self-determination for the Tamil people and the recognition of our people's integrity and dignity by the (majority) Sinhala leaders, and autonomy for our region."

He believes that with co-operation peace will return to the battle-scarred north and east. He has appointed a Sinhalese and a Muslim as Cabinet ministers, perhaps to show that he wants all communities to take part in the life of the Northern and Eastern provinces.

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Mr Annamalai Varatharajah Perumal, aged 35, who will be sworn in

Car bombs explode as Lebanon anger rises

Car bombs explode as Lebanon anger rises

Beirut — One person died and six were injured when two cars loaded with dynamite exploded near Syrian Army checkpoints in west Beirut and eastern Lebanon yesterday.

The attacks came as tension mounted in Muslim areas under Syrian Army control after the closure of the only crossing point between east Beirut and the Muslim west.

Player defects

Tokyo (Reuters) — An East German viola player, Gerhard Goebel, aged 43, defected to West Germany while in Tokyo on tour.

Blast deaths

Algiers (Reuters) — Eighteen people were killed and eight seriously injured in a gas explosion at a date processing plant, south-east of Algiers.

Train chaos

Lagos (Reuters) — Train services were paralysed nationwide as a strike by Nigerian railway workers over unpaid wages entered its second week.

Locust threat

Ankara (Reuters) — Locusts reached Turkey after destroying cereals and citrus crops in Mediterranean areas.

Police swoop

Nairobi (Reuters) — Kenyan police arrested Mr Dave Owak, an associate of Mr Oginga Odinga, the former Vice-President.

Chemical spill

Amsterdam (AP) — The city water authority halted the intake of water from the Rhine because of its pesticide content after a spill at a West German chemical plant.

Nazi files trial

West Berlin — Four men charged in connection with the theft of 4,000 Nazi files from the Berlin Document Centre went on trial here.

China millions

Peking (AFP) — The growing private business sector has created several millionaires only nine months after being recognized under the Constitution, the *China Daily* said.

WHAT HELPED FORD ACCELERATE THEIR QUALITY DRIVE?

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TIMES DIARY

DAVID WALKER

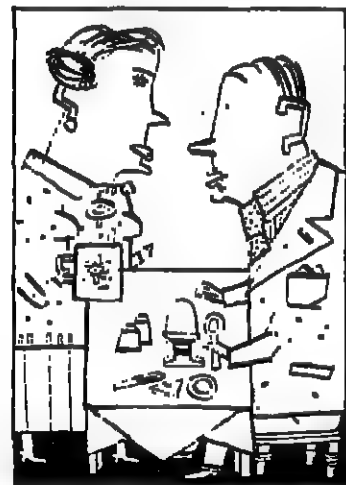
Nigel Lawson and Sir Alan Walters reconciled? Well, not quite. But tomorrow they will appear within the same set of hard covers, albeit diplomatically separated by several hundred pages of academic teasing over the question of whether Keynes's *General Theory* is still relevant fifty years on. The book, *Keynes and Economic Policy* (Macmillan) by Walter Eltis and Peter Sinclair, is the fruit of a National Economic Development Office symposium organized by Eltis and John Cassels. On the eve of his return to Downing Street the professor delivers an academic exposé designed to show the importance of money and show up the Keynesians. He does not resist the temptation to have a dig at the 364 signatories of the famous 1981 letter to *The Times*.

The Chancellor goes in for some autobiography, recalling his "endearingly eccentric" Oxford economics tutor, Sir Roy Harrod. Keynes's friend and biographer, the first thing he gave the young Nigel to read was the wartime coalition government's Keynesian text, *Employment Policy*. His mind was turned; he records that his conversion to the views he now holds did not occur until some ten years later. Keynes, none the less, gets a Lawson rebuke for his "somewhat cavalier attitude" to inflation. Connoisseurs of political code will relish the Chancellor's aside (the European Monetary System perhaps in his mind), that the Bretton Woods system of agreed exchange rates was good for discipline.

It runs in families. Liz Symons's father, Sir Ernest Symons, was one of the biggest of big wheels in the inland Revenue. In the New Year (ballot permitting) Miss Symons moves from the inland Revenue Staff Federation to become general secretary of the First Division Association, which incorporates the union representing the tax inspectors. Whitehall is the turf for her. She joined the Civil Service as an administration trainee before moving into trade unionism, where she has a reputation as a tough pay negotiator and a scourge of the Militants in the clerical unions. As a trainee she met the woman who now presides over the FDA, Alex Brett-Holt, an Environment Department official. Miss Symons will have to rely on her for support as she puts through what could be a traumatic programme of modernization of the FDA's antiquated administration.

Derek Hatton and his Militant friends would never have got half-way towards credibility if they hadn't been backed by one of the finest examples of a public service tradition that has now pretty much ended. Sitting along the corridor during Liverpool's years of crisis was Michael Reddington, then the city treasurer, later the chief executive. When he retires this month, it will be with the knowledge — however scant the appreciation he has had — that Liverpool was kept afloat thanks largely to his efforts with the brokers and fellow treasurers, his work with the district auditor under trying circumstances and his capacity to stomach the vagaries of Derek, Big Tony and their crew. A Liverpoolian council official since the early 1950s, Reddington never lost the near-fatalist good humour the city breeds. Now that Liverpool has disappeared off the map of national politics, his retirement is in danger of passing unnoticed.

BARRY FANTONI



Lord Ferrers is the Minister for Disasters. That's to say, he is a junior minister at the Home Office whose briefs include planning for civil emergencies. But let him tell it (as he did at a conference the other day). "It was only two months ago that Cosmos 1900, a Russian nuclear-powered satellite, went out of control and appeared to be returning to the earth's atmosphere. Many people were deeply worried. Would it burn up? Would it spread radiation? Emergency plans existed, and were put on standby throughout the country. I was even asked in Parliament what instruction was given to Black Rod — the eminent gentleman who is responsible for security at the Palace of Westminster — for dealing with the situation if Cosmos 1900 hit the Palace of Westminster."

"I replied that I hoped Black Rod would remember the common courtesies of life and would find the time — and the resourcefulness — at least to say 'Cheerio Chaps'."

Sir Brian Hayes, permanent secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry, is becoming a master at combining the roles of preacher and gamekeeper. By day he is, by his own estimation, an old-fashioned civil servant, certainly not one for the modern cult of personality. But when he gets up on a public platform at conferences to which business executives pay considerable sums to be instructed in that delicate subject of "liaison" with Whitehall, he seems quite happy to spill the beans on how to get money out of his own department.

The calls for Sir Brian to repeat his performances — including a memorable double-header with Michael Heseltine on "lobbying in Whitehall" — are loud. The Royal Institute of Public Administration is trying to book him again to perform on the "aims and objectives of the DTI" — a brave man.

Compared with the Government's increasing and worrying attacks on civil liberties of all kinds, the terms of the new Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill, which gets its second reading today, are relatively tame.

The fuss earlier this year about making the existing Act permanent has turned out to be largely misplaced. All that has been done is to drop the absolute five-year limitation on the life of the legislation introduced in 1984. The provisions for independent annual review of the operation of the Act, for its annual renewal by affirmative resolutions in both Houses of Parliament and for the potential omission of any provisions not shown to be necessary are as before. The only permanent part of the legislation will be, as from 1974-1984, those which authorize the renewal or resuscitation of particular powers. And this does not apply to internal terrorism in respect of England, Scotland and Wales.

On other major issues the terms of the new Bill are no worse than those of the Act introduced in 1974. The justification for exclusion orders against suspected terrorists from one part of the UK to another are as tenuous now as then. The latest review of the Act by Lord

Colville last year indicated that retention of these powers can no longer be justified. As in other places where such powers exist — the best-known being Russia and South Africa — the temptation to use them to harass the politically "suspect" rather than to pursue genuine suspicions of involvement in terrorism has been too great for many officers on the ground. Those reasonably suspected of involvement in terrorism can be arrested in any event.

Nor has any attempt been made to bring out into the open the major reason for retaining the so-called "port powers" to stop and question or detain people coming from either part of Ireland into mainland Britain. The only real justification for these powers is that they allow British immigration controls to be operated at ports of entry from Ireland given the absence of effective border controls between Northern Ireland and the Republic. These powers belong

in the Immigration Acts, not in the PTA.

The new material in the Bill is in fact the least objectionable. There is general all-party agreement that something needs to be done to control the flow of funds to terrorist organizations. The detailed provisions of the Bill for obtaining information from banks and other bodies and for the prosecution of those involved in laundering such money appear at first sight to provide some reasonable safeguards for those innocently caught up.

The nature of operations of this kind is such that some shifting of the burden of proof is unavoidable. But these powers too belong in the ordinary criminal law.

The more surprising aspects of this not-so-new Bill are the omissions. There is nothing to indicate how the Government intends to respond to the judgment last week in the European

Court of Human Rights that the seven-day arrest power in the PTA is a breach of the provision of the European Convention which requires all suspects to be brought promptly before a court. As the Government itself has acknowledged, this judgment was widely expected. The three main options are:

- to derogate from the terms of the particular article of the Convention on the grounds of the emergency in Northern Ireland and thus retain the seven-day power;
- to limit the arrest powers to four days, as under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act in respect of serious offences;
- to introduce new provisions for judicial as opposed to executive supervision of extended detention.

The first of these options might be viable within Northern Ireland but could hardly be justified in the rest of the country. The second may not be

proof against further challenge in Strasbourg given the tight terms of the majority judgment. The third is the best and proper answer. It is a pity that the Government did not introduce the necessary amendments in this Bill.

Another small but surprising omission is of any provision to cover the kind of activity for which the three caught on the estate of Tom King, the Northern Ireland Secretary, were recently convicted. The law here is such that the only serious offence for which they could be charged was conspiracy to murder. Since they were probably collecting information for others, some lesser charge might have caused less difficulty and increased confidence in Ireland. Collecting information for terrorist purposes is already an offence under the Northern Ireland Emergency Provisions Act (EPA) which could usefully have been incorporated into the PTA.

This example of the strange overlaps and omissions between the emergency provisions in Britain under the PTA and in Northern Ireland under the EPA suggests a final point. Many of the provisions of the PTA — notably the exclusion powers — apply only in respect of "Northern Ireland terrorism". But some — such as the general seven-day arrest power — now represent the only major arrest power even in Northern Ireland.

The remainder of the EPA is concerned with the particular rules for the trial of terrorist offences within Northern Ireland and some particular (and insufficiently controlled) powers of short-term arrest and questioning.

It would make a lot of sense for the whole package of emergency powers for Northern Ireland to be brought together in a single part of the new PTA. This would allow a single annual debate for renewal, a single annual review operation and a single set of statistics to be produced. It would also save a good deal of official and parliamentary time and energy. If the Government is not interested in civil liberties it might at least be interested in that. The author is Professor of Law at The Queen's University, Belfast.

Tom Hadden examines the new anti-terrorism measures

Liberty in the crossfire

Emma Duncan

Why Bhutto needs a boost



The West has been lucky in Pakistan. Ten years ago, in Iran, its reward for supporting an unpopular dictator was a revolution and Ayatollah Khomeini. In Pakistan, it was elections and Benazir Bhutto.

She is a friend worth keeping. In the part of the world bounded by the Arabs, Russia, China and South-East Asia, Pakistan is the West's natural ally. India has a long-standing friendship with Russia which dominates its foreign policy. Iran remains unreliable and unstable. Whoever takes over in Afghanistan when the Russians go is not likely to have much control. But if the West wants Pakistan to remain democratic, it will have to match its intentions with hard cash.

The Afghan war has proved Pakistan's usefulness to the West. By allowing the free flow of weapons to the guerrillas, President Zia — killed in a plane crash in August — kept the resistance going. The guerrillas may be fractious and sometimes fratricidal, but their persistence is one factor forcing the Russians out.

Miss Bhutto has made it plain that she does not want to disturb her country's close alliance with the West. She visited Washington before returning to Pakistan in 1986; she has high-up American friends; when she was bargaining with the army before being appointed prime minister, the Americans supported her.

But if the alliance is to remain useful to the West, Miss Bhutto's country must be made to work. She may, in the short term, need some financial help: our old friend Zia has left her a legacy which will be hard to manage.

Pakistan is much more divided than it was when Zia took over 11 years ago. Regional and ethnic cracks barely visible then are now gaping. Zia encouraged such divisions. His prime aim was to stifle nationwide opposition to his rule, embodied by Miss Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP). One way of doing that was to lock up PPP workers, which he did regularly. Another was to foster the sort of tribal politics that divides people by region or language.

That policy was most successful in Karachi — Pakistan's main business centre, eight million strong, and a rich ethnic mixture. The well-educated Punjabis (the Urdu word for refugee, referring to those who came from India at partition in 1947), were growing discontented with a system of quotas which cut down the number of college places and government jobs available to them. With a little government encouragement, a Mohajir political party grew from nothing in two years. In the election, it swept Karachi to become the third biggest party in parliament.

Martial law turned the Karachi hinterland, Miss Bhutto's home province of Sind, against the dominant province of Punjab. Punjabis make up 54 per cent of Pakistan's population, but 90 per cent of the army.

That is a British legacy: according to Raj theory, Punjabi Muslims were one of the martial races, and Sindis were not. Sindis who, under Zia, got the sharp end of martial law, saw army rule as Punjabi colonialism. That regional split showed

up in the elections. While Sind threw out all the candidates of the Islamic Democratic Alliance, IDA, (the remains of Zia's government), the IDA won the provincial election in Punjab. Punjab is suddenly bristling with resentment against the new Sindhi prime minister. Miss Bhutto thus has to run a country in which her business centre is controlled by an ethnic party and her biggest province by a chauvinistic opposition.

These troubles might be no more than a political challenge were Pakistan not such a violent country. Guns are another of Zia's legacies. Much of the flow of arms intended for the Afghans soaked into Pakistan, and the place is now saturated with Kalashnikovs. Ethnic tension is not a matter of sending your children to separate schools. About 1,000 people have been killed this year in violence between different groups. Rocket launchers are used in Karachi, five miles from the plate-glass windows of American Express.

According to one of Karachi's top policemen, ordinary crime has increased 30-fold in the city in five years. Kidnapping and armed robbery are commonplace; the perpetrators often off-duty policemen. In parts of Sind the administration has given up and either the army or the bandits run the countryside. Private security firms have boomed; investments have suffered.

Economic growth damps down potential political sparks. Pakistan's record under Zia looks admirable. An average annual growth rate of 6.7 per cent in 1980-1987 put it among the highest in Asia, just below Taiwan and above Singapore. But much of the growth stemmed from remittances from Pakistanis working in the Gulf oil states. Those are now falling by 10 per cent a year. The Americans, with half-hearted Pakistani support, are now with some success starting to crush the trade in heroin, of which Pakistan became the world's largest exporter. At the same time, the aid money that came to support Pakistan's stance as a

bulwark against communism threatens to vanish with the Russians from Afghanistan.

Zia's government spent as though somebody else was signing the cheques. The debts to foreign bankers are not quite Latin American in scale, but the budget deficit is worrying. The government has borrowed mostly from the public, in high-interest bonds, so the servicing charges are crippling. Around 80 per cent of the current budget goes in debt servicing and military expenditure.

Just before the elections, the previous government signed a package with the International Monetary Fund agreeing to exceedingly tough conditions in return for a cheap \$1 billion loan over three years. Miss Bhutto will now try to renegotiate the conditions. While she must recognize that she needs some austerity, the IMF should understand her political difficulties and offer some leeway.

The donor countries will be meeting in April to talk about bilateral aid. They should top up the multilateral money at least to the \$1 billion a year Pakistan has

been getting, but shift their donations into concrete investment projects so that the money does not disappear down the general administrative drain.

Miss Bhutto believes that to cut the military budget would be to invite back martial law and has, unwisely, given the public great expectations. Her manifesto promised a Christmas stocking of refashioned goodies which she cannot afford. She will instead have to raise taxes quickly. In a country as volatile as hers that may mean trouble; and trouble in Pakistan overthrows governments easily.

Miss Bhutto's antecedents do not make her the most attractive of leaders. "Bhuttoism", she claims, is her creed; but Bhuttoism as practised by her father in the 1970s was heavy-handed socialism with a strong flavour of thuggery. Her pragmatism, however, suggests that she does not take his policies seriously, and she insists that she has no plans for revenge.

But whatever Miss Bhutto means, the revival of democracy she represents is the best thing that Pakistan's Western allies could hope for. What could replace it? An Islamic state, perhaps; the fundamentalists, though consistently crushed in elections, are the best-organized and best-armed street politicians. The ethnic and regional cracks may widen, and Pakistan's hatred could pull the country apart. More likely, enough trouble on the streets would bring back martial law. Soldier-dictators are not the best allies: they are usually unpopular and sometimes die suddenly.

When Western aid donors meet in April to ponder Pakistan, the Russians should have gone and Pakistan's immediate strategic importance will have to be faced. But the donors should remember that Pakistan is still our best regional friend — if it can be made to work.

© Times Newspapers, 1988
The author writes for *The Economist*. Her book on Pakistan will be published by Michael Joseph in February.

Commentary • ROBERT JACKSON

Hijacked by the left

"Enablement" bids fair to become the latest political buzzword, along with its much more difficult "entitlement". Paddy Ashdown's discourse is peppered with these expressions, and they are to be found increasingly on the lips of the trendier thinkers on the left, from Bryan Gould to the columnists of *Marxism Today*.

The words originate, in fact, in criticism by the free-market right of economic collectivism and socialized welfare. The principle behind "enablement" is that the state can best achieve its economic and social objectives by enabling consumers to purchase goods and services rather than by owning industries and providing services itself.

Ashdown put it clearly in a recent interview with *The Independent*: "We must seriously rethink whether or not the state and, indeed, government at a local level, have to go on in the present circumstances fulfilling the role of monopoly provider... If you could define entitlements and attach them to individual citizens, then the role of the state... would change from monopoly provider... to an organisation which ensures distribution, regulates quality, and funds the system in the first place."

Certainly, the centre and the left need a new theme as they contemplate the irreversibility of privatization and the widespread scepticism towards many publicly provided services. But is this a theme they can run with? There are formidable problems here for left-inclined thinkers. For a start, what happens to equality under a regime of

"enablement"? As Ashdown makes clear, the classical notions of state ownership and state provision were associated with the idea of monopoly sanctified by democratic accountability. Even such a "modernist" Labour thinker as Roy Hattersley favours extending this monopoly throughout education and the health services. The reasoning has been that state monopoly guarantees not only universality of coverage but also equality of access, and even of outcome: it prevents "social divisions".

The truth is that enablement, like other concepts, has its own logic. One element is diversity: enabled to choose between competing suppliers, customers will make different choices leading to varying results. Thus diversity leads inexorably to inequality.

Take housing. The classical left approach was to provide publicly-owned housing, subsidized without regard to the condition of the occupant. Enablement accepts the end of state housing but attaches public subsidy to the occupant rather than to the property. If the subsidy is not restricted to the payment of rent — and why should it be? — some occupants will use it to enable them to buy the property, appropriating its capital appreciation for themselves. Those who use the subsidy only to pay rent will forfeit this opportunity, putting themselves, or their children, at a disadvantage.

It is the same with education. Enablement leads us away from state provision to parental choice. The centre-left is even beginning to look with interest on vouchers for education. But

as the opposition argued in the debates on the Education Reform Act, freer parental choice is bound to lead to unequal outcomes. Family A will choose discriminatingly, or top up its voucher. Family B will fail to do so. The result: greater inequality.

Then there is another problem: enablement marks a shift of perspective from the collective to the individual. But in the tradition of the British left, the individual is associated with competition, greed, philistinism, and self-interest. This view of individualism is more than an intellectual perception: it has a powerful moralistic and aesthetic dimension. Conservative thinking has always been realistic about the part played by self-interest in human affairs — as it has about the inevitability of inequality. It chooses to work with the grain of human nature, to strengthen the ties which cut across distinctions of status and class. And it has a richly developed discourse intended to show, to quote Pope, how "true self-love and social are the same"; the Hurd-Baker concept of the "active citizen" is the most recent expression of this tradition.

By contrast, the wavering fortunes of Bryan Gould's and Roy Hattersley's attempts to reconcile the puritan heritage of British socialism with Croslandian hedonism shows that it will not be easy for the centre-left to work out a new philosophy which gives a more balanced account of the individual.

The left's problem with enabling goes deeper than the merely theoretical. The end of state provision creates oppor-

tunities for subsidies to selected consumers. Electioneering will thus produce a rash of interesting ideas for new entitlements. But by the same token, if the state stops providing services there will be fewer opportunities for subsidizing producers. By its constitution the Labour Party is locked into supporting producer-interests. And one of the key constituencies to which the Democrats are looking is among the producers of public services disgruntled by the impact of growing consumer choice.

Enabling means siding with the consumer rather than with the producer — perhaps even against the producer. In the field of health, the logic of enablement is one of helping (selected) individuals to buy health care from a variety of competing suppliers. The old paradigm of a "free" state service, with a monopoly of provision rationed by the producers of that service, is replaced by a new model of state-assisted choice. When consumers reject shoddy services, thus rendering them redundant, which side will Labour and the Democrats be on?

The problem with words is that they mean more than politicians often want them to mean. Enablement is such a word, with a meaning, pedigree, and logic which cannot be discarded at the politician's convenience. The problem for those on the centre and left who are struggling to find a new language more in tune with the times is that enablement is part of the vocabulary of Thatcherism.

The author is Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Higher Education.

DEC 6 ON THIS DAY 1929



The important part played by flying boats in the development of long-distance flying years ago is hard to overestimate. Two famous British firms, Firths, the steelmakers, and Short Brothers, of Rochester, pioneer of all-metal flying-boat design, are seen here in natural co-operation.

STAINLESS STEEL FOR AIRCRAFT

(From Our Aeronautical Correspondent)

A revolutionary advance in the construction of British flying-boats is now being made by the substitution of stainless steel plating for the former duralumin sheet up to the water line, and the effect of this change will be that British flying-boats will now be practically indestructible by corrosion. They will have a longer hull life than a ship, and that without the continual repainting associated with marine vessels.

No other nation in the world has tackled the difficulties in the way of using high-tensile steel plates for the whole bottom of a flying-boat hull and the chines up to the maximum water line, and it is only now, as a result of much research work by English steel-makers and flying-boat constructors, that the problem of producing the right quality of steel and acquiring the necessary technique to work it successfully has been solved. Hitherto duralumin sheet has been exclusively used, and as this alloy is easily worked it has been a comparatively simple matter to beat it into the precise curves needed to secure the best water lines for least resistance; but duralumin is prone to sea-water corrosion, and while great advances have been made in prolonging its

water life, the flying-boat designer has been casting longing eyes at stainless steel for many years. The older stainless steels were not proof against corrosion in sea water, but T. Firth and Sons, who have made a special study of stainless and other steels for aircraft use, have evolved a nickel chromium steel which is definitely resistant to sea-water action.

This is a grade of Staybrite high-tensile steel, and as weight is important in aircraft a thin plate was needed, because steel has a density three times that of duralumin. As it is also what is known as an austenitic steel, that is, it becomes harder with cold rolling, one of the problems was how to roll this steel in plates as thin and as large as the aircraft constructor needed. None of the existing mills was stout enough to roll the required size of sheet in steels with maximum stresses of from 60 up to nearly 100 tons, so Firth and Sons installed special mills to turn out the required sizes.

Then Short Brothers, of Rochester, who were already pioneers in all-metal flying-boats and had been pressing the steel-makers for stainless plates, again carried out more pioneer work in developing the workshop technique required to mould this plate to the flying-boat hull shape. They have so far succeeded that to-day they definitely adopted steel plated hulls up to the water line for all their new construction, and are, in fact, the first British firm to have built a steel plated hull. The Supermarine Aviation Works, of Southampton, have now also adopted steel plating.

The advantages are immense, for the underwater portion of the hull becomes practically everlasting, and even the thinnest steel plate will be more resistant to physical damage than the softer although thicker duralumin plate...



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

TRAVEL QUESTIONS

President Gorbachov sets out today on a three-country journey which will take him for the first time to the United Nations and Cuba and for the third time to Britain. The itinerary may look as though it was dictated largely by convenience, but it offers, perhaps coincidentally, a skeleton of the Kremlin's "new political thinking" abroad and a neat illustration of its global dimensions.

Mr Gorbachov's arrival at the United Nations will symbolize the Soviet Union's changed attitude to the UN and to international organizations generally. In the nearly four years that he has been in power, the Soviet leader has tried, with some success, to turn the Soviet Union from an international spoiler into an international participant.

Having once eschewed organizations like the IMF, GATT and scientific bodies which were ideologically not to its liking or where its influence was circumscribed, Moscow seems now to recognize that its absence harmed only itself. There are signs, however, that it could see these bodies as forums which could in time limit the international influence of the United States. What Mr Gorbachov has to say from the podium of the UN may show how he hopes to use the enhanced world role he would clearly like for his country.

By visiting the UN, Mr Gorbachov also achieves the feat of seeing the old US President out and the new President in without making the diplomatic concession that a formal visit to Washington would have meant (the Soviet Union is scheduled to host the next super-power summit). New York was an ideal compromise.

To meet the new President before he has real power is a shrewd political move; it should foster continuity in Soviet-US relations at a time when the Soviet leader has the advantage. It also gives Mr Gorbachov a chance to see the city that has for so long both terrified and tantalized Russians as the embodiment of the American achievement.

In travelling from the UN to Cuba, the Soviet leader signals to Washington that the United States is not always the only reason why a Soviet leader would want to travel westwards. He also restates his country's commitment to a sometimes headstrong ally. What will be said, in public speeches and in private to the Cuban leadership, may show whether Moscow's attitudes to its clients in the less developed world are changing and whether another of the so-called "regional issues" — in Central America — might permit a solution.

That the maintenance of poor, distant and

ideologically zealous allies is a liability Moscow may eventually reconsider has been suggested by a distinct coolness in Soviet dealings with Cuba and Vietnam. Recent Soviet statements about regional prerogatives and the legitimate right of countries to regional security might foreshadow a Soviet willingness to disengage from Central America — at the price, no doubt, of big US concessions elsewhere. How high the price might be set, and whether Moscow would ever willingly sacrifice so valuable a strategic asset, even partially, must be open to doubt.

And so to Britain, where a clearer outline of Mr Gorbachov's strategy towards Western Europe — on economic co-operation, arms control and human rights — may emerge from a concentrated day and a half of talks. While the personal rapport between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Gorbachov should facilitate productive meetings, the Soviet leader will also know that Britain's Prime Minister is the one he must convince if some of his favourite ideas — a nuclear-free Europe, a reduction in conventional weapons, and the Moscow human rights conference — are ever to advance far.

Neither Mrs Thatcher, nor the British public, is likely to be impressed by a challenge to Britain's human rights record through the Irish question. Such a challenge, if it is planned, may anyway be intended primarily for the Soviet audience or as a pretext on which to postpone the Moscow conference on human rights. Quietly, however, the Soviet leader might be instructed in the difference between terrorists convicted in a democratic legal process and political dissenters who have neither used nor threatened violence but have lost their freedom none the less.

The denouement of the Soviet hijacking incident with the repatriation of the hi-jackers from Israel summarizes many elements of Mr Gorbachov's foreign policy: a more flexible approach to countries which have hitherto been judged too hostile to merit notice, an attempt to project the Soviet Union as a country where civilized values and the rule of law prevail — and a readiness to seize the propitious moment. But would Moscow have been so flexible or shown so civilized a face if Mr Gorbachov had not been about to set out for the United States?

That such questions about motives are still asked is one of the obstacles the Soviet President encounters in presenting his "new political thinking" around the world. But questions there are, and their awkwardness is no reason for not asking them.

THE TRAINING CIRCLE

With the publication yesterday of Mr Norman Fowler's White Paper on employment, the wheel of policy set spinning by his party colleague Lord Carr of Hadley in 1973 has come full circle. Lord Carr's Training Act, which heavily increased state intervention in an arena where previously employers had had considerable autonomy, gave birth to the dirigiste Manpower Services Commission. Earlier this year Mr Fowler killed the MSC and yesterday he went a considerable distance towards reinstating employers as the main actors in the provision of job training.

In doing so he takes a gamble. Lord Carr was motivated to legislative action by the apparent unwillingness of employers to do what was needed to modernize apprenticeship and the means of acquiring vocational skill. Mr Fowler is relying on a transformation of attitudes among employers, a recognition of the demographic changes which will threaten the supply of skilled labour, and a consequent willingness not only to train their own workforces but to join together in a new network of local committees to train the workforces of competitors as well.

Mr Fowler is not unaware of the problems ahead. The number and volume of his speeches suggests a strong realization that the process of attitudinal change still has some way to go. Once the trade unions, at their conference this autumn, had shown so utterly their refusal to co-operate in Employment Training, the Government had little choice but

to go forward — and trust that the time was right.

The heart of the reform is the replacement of the MSC's network of local committees with Training and Enterprise Councils on which employers will predominate. These will, among other things, run the Employment Training programme for the unemployed and cast an eye over local labour markets. Public money will be placed at the disposal of business people who will be required in return to devote themselves to the general welfare, including the welfare of their competitors.

The practical task facing these councils is very great. At one level they will have to have an eye on the local do-it-yourself store's need for shelf-fillers; at another to worry whether the local further education college is turning out enough electronic engineers. They will work alongside the industrial training boards, which are to become voluntary clubs of employers. Meanwhile alongside the Training and Enterprise Councils, city technology colleges are coming on stream, the Open College is (just about) opening, and the youth training scheme continues.

It will inevitably seem to some as an untidy jumble of programmes. There will be problems of Whitehall co-ordination as well as business readiness. It is important that employers, and, in particular, their umbrella organizations such as Chambers of Commerce, react quickly to the opportunity that the Government has given.

EGGS AND THE MINISTER

The current ill-humour of the House of Commons was confounded yesterday by an unstoppable combination — Mrs Edwina Currie and eggs. Why eggs should be so funny to Mr Kenneth Clarke and his fellows is not fully clear. Why the subject of Mrs Currie is so amusing is clearer, but not perhaps sufficiently so to justify the jollity of the chamber.

Eggs are a serious business — a point repeatedly made by members from egg-producing constituencies. This nation consumes 30 million eggs a day (9,000 million so far this year).

Mrs Currie is a serious politician — certainly to Conservative colleagues who resent her ease of access to the popular press. So her claim that "most of the egg production in this country is affected" by salmonella was vigorously rejected by the producers and only superficially defended by her boss, Mr Clarke.

Once the gales of parliamentary laughter have subsided, an issue remains. True, in the daily diet of mass egg-eaters an infection of 1,000 people must be put into some kind of perspective. But it is too much infection none the less — and too much confusion as well.

This year there have been 46 reported outbreaks of salmonella poisoning in which a connection with eggs has been epidemiologically proven to the satisfaction of the Department of Health. About 1,000 people have been affected. As the number of reported cases of food poisoning is usually only a fraction of the total, the national incidence is probably very much higher.

Food poisoning has been on the increase for some years, and not only in Britain. The most notable rise has been in a strain called *salmonella enteritidis*, which accounted for 9 per cent of all reported cases in 1982 but as many as 49 per cent so far this year. Two out of

every three cases of *salmonella enteritidis* have been further identified as a sub-species called *phage type 4* which is associated especially with poultry. This can infect hens' reproductive organs, which suggests one possible link to the present worry over contaminated eggs.

These statistics are enough to explain why both the Department of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture are concerned. Nor are they alone in the world. In the United States and parts of Europe too, similar developments have prompted varying responses from public health authorities.

For the last six months egg-eaters have been bombarded by conflicting advice. What has led to this confusion is the continuing argument over risk assessment. The British Egg Information Service which represents the industry, has understandably tried to play down the public threat. The industry argues that the risk of one being poisoned by eggs is at least 200 million to one.

But what has emerged since the first reports from the Public Health Laboratory in June has been a sporadic flow of public advice from the department (first warning against the use of raw eggs, then the consumption of those which have been only lightly cooked), interspersed by reassurances from the industry and, what the industry calls "scare stories" in the press.

The statement by the Secretary of State for Health in the Commons yesterday was welcome. So too was guidance which was issued for poultry farmers.

It must be hoped that the working party which was established in August to investigate the outbreaks in more detail can quickly identify and eliminate the threat. While Mrs Currie may not be precisely vindicated, she will live to fight another day.

Transport planning and investment

From Mr Robert Adley, MP for Christchurch (Conservative)
Sir, Public transport and party politics make messy bedfellows. Your correspondence columns also the widespread aggravation that effectively mirrors the problem.

In a nutshell, Conservative government has created economic prosperity, yet is encompassed in a philosophy which rejects "planning" or "intervention". Conversely, Labour governments believe in planning and intervention, but have failed to nurture the seeds of economic success with which to implement them within a climate of economic growth.

Can this country equip itself with the best of both worlds, namely a government which caters the economic growth and which recognizes the role of transport planning and long-term investment?

Exacerbating traffic jams, combined with death and injury on the roads, are, it seems, the price we must pay for the "freedom of the motorist". Ever more crowded roads and inadequate investment in our highways are at least mitigated by safety on the tracks; a one-class Bill to subject road traffic to the same safety disciplines as the railways would save 5,000 lives a year. But who is prepared to value human life so highly against personal inconvenience?

Until a national "British Roads Ltd" is created identically with "British Railways Ltd", we shall not begin to resolve the problems. If country lanes were subjected to the same financial criteria as country railway lines, most would be "closed". Legislation which has allowed, even encouraged, commuter coaches to clog London's arteries, creating traffic conditions described as "hazardous" by the Metropolitan Police, is a primary factor in generating congestion, in perpetuating unfair competition, and in causing pollution. Why does a Fiat Panda pay £100 road fund tax, a 53-seater coach pay £85?

"Consensus" remains a dirty word to many of my parliamentary colleagues. The alternative, in transport terms, is congestion. Surely politicians of all hues could experiment by seeking agreed solutions for long-term investment policies in transport infrastructure, with com-

mitment beyond the length of a single Parliament?

Yours etc,
ROBERT ADLEY,
House of Commons,
November 29.

From Mr Michael Welbank
Sir, Although transport and, in particular, roads are currently somewhat near the top of the political agenda, the issues are fudged. It is the Dunkirk spirit which keeps traffic moving in our cities — but only just!

In London, the vacuum created by the demise of the GLC has been filled awfully and unwittingly, by the Department of Transport. Excellent as they may be in implementing road programmes, they are no strategists. No one ever asked them to be. Indeed their remit from Parliament limits them to building roads to meet demand rather than deploying their investment resources to bring about a London renaissance.

The scale and impact of their investments are such that they should be embracing a strategy which helps to shape a future vision of London rather than just trying to meet existing demand — often in fact an impossible process or at a price society will not accept. Road programmes without a strategy context — and a strategy fully understood by the public — can be disastrous.

Also, no strategy exists, neither is there any clear ongoing public debate on this issue at the moment, only a war between conflicting pressure groups. *The Times*, in fact, has been leading the field over the last few months with articles from Sir Peter Imbert, with the street view, and from Professor Peter Hall, with the jettisoning American viewpoint, but Sir Colin Buchanan's *Our Road* ("Jam today and tomorrow", November 22) is the only contributor to the debate with a coherent philosophy.

The debate must go on and a socially-acceptable transport strategy for our urban conurbations found. Pragmatism is not good enough when the future of our cities, and our countryside, is at stake.
Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WELBANK,
Director, Shankland Cox Ltd,
Birmingham Road,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Ryan extradition case

From M Georges-Henri Beauchier
Sir, I wish to comment on the report of a telephone interview with me which you published on November 29, concerning the British request for the extradition of Patrick Ryan.

In response to a precise question, I replied as best I could in English that the decision taken by the Belgian Government was an act of government. As such, it was a political decision, founded on juridical arguments.

I added that the lawyers were glad to note that their arguments had been accepted and that the Belgian Government had taken account of two French refusals of extradition based on the same reasons.

I further added, basing myself on an Amnesty International report, that if I am to regard the United Kingdom as a democracy, human rights did not seem to me to be guaranteed, in so far as Irish citizens are concerned.
Yours faithfully,
GEORGES-HENRI

BEAUCHIER,
Rue Berckmans 102,
Brussels 1060, Belgium.
November 30.

From Mr J. W. Stead
Sir, Your second leader on November 29, "A blow from Belgium", is too mild in condemnation of the way we have been treated. Some of us are old enough to remember how we in

this country responded to Belgium's cry for help in 1914.

Our doors were flung open to receive the wounded — our VRD nurses rushed to buildings turned into emergency hospitals and tended the Belgian wounded — our doctors stayed all hours of the days and nights to treat the wounded, and when they reached the convalescent stage our homes were opened to them, and they were given love and friendship.

What do we feel now, after this slap in the face? "Shame on you, Belgium!"

Yours faithfully,
J. W. STEAD,
Trowwell, Goudhurst, Kent.
November 30.

From Mr D. B. Seigal
Sir, I was amazed, once more, that documents in connection with the application for an extradition warrant were incorrectly processed (report, November 30). One would have thought that extreme care would have been exercised in view of the importance of the Ryan case.

I would suggest that the anger Mrs Thatcher was alleged to have directed against the Irish Government should first be expressed against the department responsible for drawing up the necessary documents inaccurately.
Yours sincerely,
DENNIS B. SEIGAL,
Flat 2, 4 Arundel Terrace,
Brighton, Sussex.
November 30.

Action on Ethiopia

From Brigadier Charles Cox
Sir, Mr Basil Davidson (November 25) is right to condemn the Ethiopian military regime, supported as it is by the USSR and financed, indirectly, by Western aid for famine victims. It is right, however, to expect additional action by the EEC, including Britain. Surely, this a matter for the UN?

As the commanding officer of the last British Army battalion in Eritrea, I accompanied the chief commissioner from Asmara to Addis Ababa in 1952 to implement the decision by the UN at the end of the British mandate to federate Eritrea with Ethiopia. We were received in his palace by the Emperor Haile Selassie who, incidentally, embarrassed me by addressing me in French.

Later the occupation of Eritrea by Ethiopian military forces was widely condemned. Civil war followed and continues to this day, absorbing vast resources which could otherwise be used for peaceful purposes.

The UN should establish a buffer force, as in the case of the frontiers of Israel and Syria/Lebanon. If Russia is sincere in her desire for world peace she should support the UN initiative and bring pressure to bear on the Marxist government of Ethiopia.
Yours faithfully,
C. F. COX,
Broadwell House,
Lechlade, Gloucestershire.
November 29.

Art for export

From Mr Keith Jeffery
Sir, The Mappa Mundi controversy highlights the woefully inadequate nature of the regulations governing the export of works of art. No other country in Europe with a major cultural heritage to protect has such a haphazard system. It is inconceivable that such a treasure would be allowed to leave Spain, France, Italy, or Greece.

Even if the Government's advisers have declared an object to be of prime national importance, it can still be lost unless a public collection can match the sale price. That price can be grossly inflated by extraneous factors, and the chance incidence of works on the market can mean that a major fund-raising effort may be virtually assured the loss of another. The country is thus in a very real sense being held to

ransom for the retention of its own art treasures.

The time has surely arrived for the Arts Minister to draw up a list of objects the export of which would be prohibited. Were the list to be a short one, confined to objects of supreme importance, London's position as the world's most flourishing art market need not be materially damaged.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH JEFFERY,
North Grange, Langley Park,
Westham, Buckinghamshire.
November 29.

From Mr Ivor Bulmer-Thomas
Sir, The objects for which the Dean and Chapter at Hereford Cathedral are prepared to sell their Mappa Mundi are in some cases not only unnecessary but undesirable. One is a great stone platform covering the area under the central tower to house a nave altar. This has greatly upset the Friends of Hereford Cathedral.

They suffer from a common clerical disease these days — the itch for change.
Yours faithfully,
IVOR BULMER-THOMAS
(Honorary Director,
Friends of Hereford Cathedral),
12 Edwardes Square, W8.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01782 5046).

Benefits from routine Aids testing

From Professor J. E. Banatvala and others
Sir, Whilst we agree with Dr David Owen (November 30) that routine testing for HIV would provide a much more accurate picture of the distribution of this virus in Britain, constraints imposed by various pressure groups are unfortunately limiting the number of persons tested in high-risk groups. In our view, if routine testing were to be made mandatory, all hospitals would have to comply, lest patients who did not wish to be tested went elsewhere.

Dr Owen draws an analogy with testing for syphilis, which is carried out routinely in certain groups of people without informed consent. However, syphilis can be successfully treated, whereas current chemotherapy for HIV, although improving the quality of life, does not as yet lead to its significant prolongation, and is associated with unpleasant and occasionally life-threatening side effects.

Let it be hoped that treatment which will overcome these problems will become available, at which time there can be little doubt that all who are at risk from HIV will want to be tested so that they can be treated.

Until then, anonymized testing carried out in certain geographical areas and in key population groups will provide information relating to the spread of infection in the community. By this means it will be possible to monitor heterosexual transmission of HIV and quantitate the spread of HIV 2, the second strain, since, should this occur to a significant degree, it will be necessary to extend tests for diagnosis and screening to include this virus. This information is vital for ensuring that education is directed towards high-risk groups at the appropriate time.

Although it must be conceded that anonymized testing has some disadvantages, since it is not possible to trace individuals found to be positive and to counsel them, the method avoids the potential bias inherent in any voluntary system, since many who are likely to be adversely affected will not consent to being tested.
Yours faithfully,
J. E. BANATVALA,
FELICITY NICHOLSON,
ANTHEA TILZEY,
St Thomas' Hospital,
Department of Virology,
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1.
December 1.

From Professor M. D. Vickers
Sir, I can assure your readers that "the leaders" of the medical profession to whom Dr David Owen appeals for a reappraisal of

their attitude to routine tests for the Aids virus are completely out of tune with the opinions of the majority of doctors whom they lead.

I heard Dr Owen make the same points in his John Snow lecture to the Association of Anaesthetists last September. Far from the opposition which he anticipated, he was met with the most thunderous spontaneous applause I have heard for such a normally restrained audience.

Of course the key is total confidentiality of the test result and of the counselling that follows. The leaders of the hospital consultants have already been driven by the attitude of the BMA Council to obtain a second legal opinion. John Snow and the other Victorian fathers of public health would have been appalled by the BMA proposal, which is simply not in the public interest. I have no doubt that Dr Owen's views would command wide support in the profession.
Yours sincerely,
M. D. VICKERS,
University of Wales College of Medicine,
Department of Anaesthetics,
University Hospital of Wales,
Heath Park,
Cardiff, South Glamorgan.
November 30.

From the Director of the National Blood Transfusion Service
Sir, Dr Owen's comments with respect to the policy adopted by the National Blood Transfusion Service are not exactly correct, nor is the conclusion he draws.

Before a blood donation is collected a donor receives a leaflet in which it is stated that "... tests are done in the laboratory after you give blood. These include a test for antibodies to the Aids virus to which donors are asked to agree. This is confirmed at the blood-collection session, when donors are asked to sign to agree to the test."

The introduction of anonymized testing will not affect the policy of the transfusion service and every effort will continue to be made to follow up those donors who are found positive for HIV antibody for further tests and confidential counselling. To abandon this action would, indeed, be detrimental to the health of donors and to patients requiring the transfusion of blood and blood products.

Yours faithfully,
HAROLD H. GUNSON,
National Director,
National Blood Transfusion Service,
Gateway House,
Piccadilly South, Manchester.
November 30.

Bid for Collins

From Mr Anthony Forrester and others
Sir, The recent takeover bid for William Collins plc by Rupert Murdoch's News International (reports, November 18, December 2) is not something that should be allowed to pass without comment. That the independence of a UK-owned and managed publisher is threatened by such a conglomerate can only bode ill for Collins employees and authors.

Collins publishes a range of high-quality titles that reflect its independent commitment to development and innovation in the field of English-language teaching. As authors of English-language teaching books for Collins we feel that this commitment will suffer should Collins lose its independence.

Music's soft sell

From Mrs J. Merz
Sir, John Fink (December 1) is lucky that, for him, "the beauty of a good tune will be remembered when the product is forgotten", and that Verdi's "Prisoners' Chorus" will not, in future, always make him think of British Airways.

Some of us are less fortunate. For instance, I shall never again be able to listen to Elgar's Cello Concerto without being reminded, maddeningly, of John Mortimer's TV serial, *Paradise Postponed*, and of cosy, middle-class Henley, rather than the desolate landscapes and wasted lives of the First World War.

"A signature tune for the Inland Revenue?", asks John Fink. No, I say, unless they can write their own tune and not pinch someone else's!
Yours faithfully,
JOHANNA MERZ,
14 Whitefield Close,
Putney, SW15.

Only a few years ago a previous dean and chapter controversially removed Skidmore's screen to improve the view of the east end and now it is being blocked up again. The chained library has had a satisfactory home inside the cathedral for centuries — a home that is now as much a part of the heritage as the books and manuscripts; but the Dean and Chapter want to create a new building outside the cathedral which is sure to be controversial.

They suffer from a common clerical disease these days — the itch for change.
Yours faithfully,
IVOR BULMER-THOMAS
(Honorary Director,
Friends of Hereford Cathedral),
12 Edwardes Square, W8.

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We wholeheartedly support Ian Chapman, the Chairman of Collins plc, and his management and editorial staff, in their campaign to counter News International and would urge anyone with interests in English as a foreign language teaching or in the future of independent publishing in the UK to do likewise.
Yours,
ANTHONY FORRESTER,
JANE WILLIS, DAVE WILLIS,
SUE O'CONNELL, R. R. JORDAN,
DAVID FOLL, ANDREW WRIGHT,
GEOFFREY BROUGHTON,
64 Cherry Garden Road,
Old Town, Eastbourne,
East Sussex.
December 3.

Ancestral voices

From Mr John Hutton
Sir, Your report, "Britons' language led down" (November 26), confirms that young Britons, like their parents, are not much good at foreign languages compared with their European counterparts. Would it not be a good idea to vary our diet of TV "soaps" beyond their present mix of English regional, North American, or Aussie accents? An offering of German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, and Danish "soaps", suitably subtitled, could both diversify our viewing and prepare us for 1992 and beyond.

If the French can take *Allô Allô* and the Dutch love *Dad's Army*, surely we should be offering some reciprocity of cultural viewing in exchange.
Yours faithfully,
JOHN HUTTON,
Aberlour,
25 Lambridge Wood Road,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
November 27.

Happy landings

From the Duchess of Devonshire
Sir, If Mr Michael Ross (December 1) travelled often to Leeds he would discover that "to land" is northern English for "to arrive".

Some years ago Lucian Freud was painting the walls of a room in this house. He worked at night and was visited every evening by the night watchman, who always started the conversation with "Oh, so you've landed, then".
Yours faithfully,
DEBORAH DEVONSHIRE,
Chiswick,
Buckinghamshire.
December 2.

From Mr Arthur Duggan
Sir, "Landing" in Newcastle is surely preferable to "criminating" in Liverpool, the normal expression used as the InterCity from Euston pulls into Lime Street.
Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR DUGGAN,
35 Springfield, Parkgate,
South Wirral, Merseyside.
December 1.

THE ARTS

A wheeze conceived

The documentary series currently being advertised in the windows of the Family Planning Association purports to be a history of contraception in the 20th century. Hands up if you had not realized that this subject is elastic enough to stretch to two hours of prime-time transmission.

Though sounding suspiciously like a forerunner of a by a

TELEVISION

programmer with a perverse sense of humour, *In the Club* (Channel 4) in fact derives from that august body, the Television History Workshop. Space does not permit even a potted history of the workshop and its relevance to ongoing cultural situations — perhaps some day Channel 4 will favour us with a series on the topic — but the term connotes both banal and industry and mental sloth. So considerable an achievement deserves to be saluted.

This conception of oral history is a brilliant wheeze on television, enabling producers simply to whistle up dozens of real people and film them expatiating on intimate things. Bung in the usual clip of the Squares to conjure the 1940s, and thigh-level footage of the Kings Road for the 1960s, and you have a sort of instant kit.

As was evidenced by the BBC's recent *Out of the Doll's House*, old folk to particular relish the opportunity to hold forth on topics considered taboo in their youth. It is doubtless good news that honey-mooning couples are no longer to be seen standing outside chemists' shops in a state of trance, perplexed, like victims of a practical joke; legal abortion is even better news. But how odd that it takes a programme about ignorance to leave viewers feeling less informed than before.

Many, for instance, will have been surprised to learn that servicemen in the Second World War were issued with condoms as contraception. One had always thought their specific function was prophylaxis — a concern, in the same context, that exercised Kipling and others in earlier decades. It may be true that each generation imagines itself to have invented sex, but unimpressive documentaries on the subject are as old as the hills, or at least as the Pill.

Martin Cropper

Crafts in Britain are finally breaking free of the stranglehold of good taste, John Russell Taylor reports

Classic craft union

GALLERIES

Craft Classics since the 1940s
Crafts Council

Christmas Exhibition
Galerie Besson

Second Nature
Sheila Harrison Fine Art

Kaffe Fassett/Avant
Première
Victoria and Albert Museum

Thomas Hennell
Fine Art Society

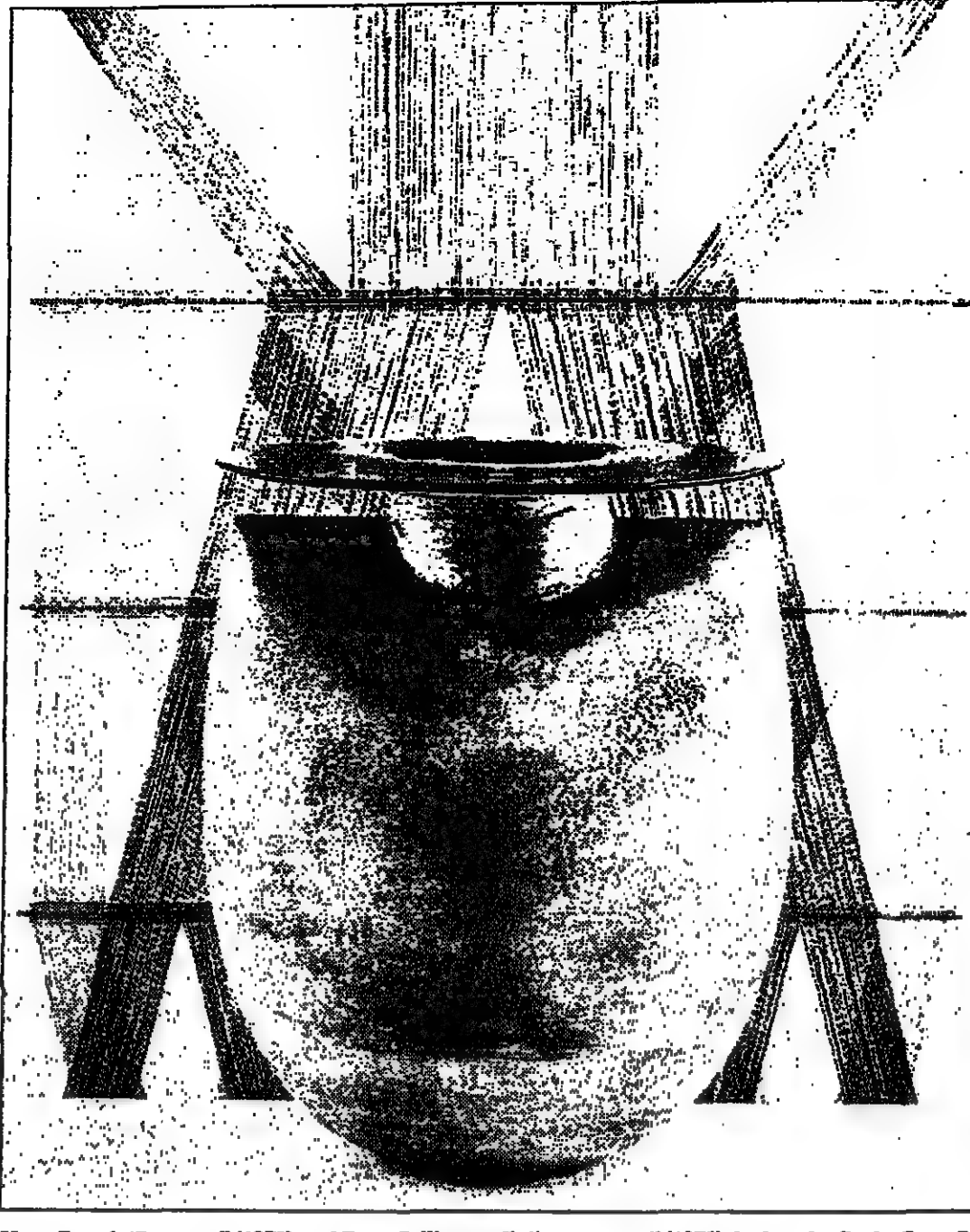
Obviously there is no point in going over again the arts/crafts dichotomy, whether it exists and why it should not. So I shall refrain, remarking merely that if my mind tends to be drawn this time of year to what we have traditionally called the crafts, it is probably because of the very high in the system which most encourages craftsmen: that if whatever you crave in a gallery is labelled "craft", it is likely to be a lot more affordable than if it is labelled "art".

This applies even to the grandest of the shows, Craft Classics since the 1940s, which is at the Crafts Council Gallery until January 8. A certain number of the works are for sale, and would be well worth looking into. I was reminded of a very extraordinary book I recently saw in Chicago (called *The Eloquent Object*, at the Public Library Cultural Center until December 30). It also concerns itself with the crafts since 1945, this time in the United States. But it does not precisely label its contents, and one never stops for a moment to consider which pigeonhole the objects should be placed in. The dominant effect is of bounding life, vigour, variety, and sublime unconcern for the niceties of refined taste.

You could not say so much of the Crafts Council show. There is still an amazing variety of style and medium, and plenty of fine workmanship. But for most of the time since the Forties the crafts in Britain have been living timorously in a ghetto of good taste, and only in the last few years have they nerved themselves to break

out. Certainly once you arrive at the Seventies the colours get stronger, the forms further from function and more unpredictable. But then, if you are looking for the "classics" promised by the show's title, you probably do not want anything too wild and woolly; certainly in that line you could hardly do better than the ceramics of Hans Coper.

The last show at the Galerie Besson was devoted to Hans



Hans Coper's "large pot" (1972), and Peter Collingwood's "macrogaze" (1973), both at the Crafts Council

Coper. But although everything at this gallery is done with style and elegance, it never seems to be intimidated by the bogey of bad taste: the statement is positive rather than negative. The new Christmas Exhibition, which runs until December 22, is a case in point. It includes groups of pots by eight young potters, plus some exquisite (and no doubt practical) wooden furniture by J.M. Bauk-will and C.J. Turner. The diversity of the potters is very striking. Elisabeth Owen goes in for extraordinary encrusted textures, as though her pieces have been buried for centuries. Ying Young Li dribbles a painterly calligraphy of glazes over his subtly eccentric vessels. Jennifer Lee is one for velvety surfaces, mostly vaguely sandy in colour and tending towards the speckled and the mottled. Rodney Lawrence likes minimal decoration: several

pieces have just one or two faintly hazled lines. Sheila Harrison believes in combining pots (which seem to be her principal passion) with drawings and even, as in the current *Second Nature* show (until January 7), the odd wood carving as well. The principal people in this box of delights are Peter Hayes, who makes large vessels with tiny apertures, firmly

demanding to be read as sculpture and appreciated for their intricate and eroded surface textures; Rhodia Mann, who makes necklaces and other jewellery which turn ethnic materials to sophisticated modern ends; Guy Taplin, whose wood-carvings of birds use the language of the traditional decoy to make unexpectedly witty and sophisticated art; and the unclassifiable Andrew Lanyon, whose funny little drawings and paintings bespeak a wealth of happy craziness disciplined by a strong sense of form.

The Victoria and Albert has at the moment an exhibition happily reflecting its position as our national museum of decorative arts (another conveniently non-committal term, by the way). Kaffe Fassett is the "painter in wool" who has single-handedly revolutionized our ideas about knitting today. Since he arrived in Britain in the Sixties he has designed brilliantly coloured and patterned knits which could and did become part of the great British design revival in the hands of such as Bill Gibb. Fassett designs other things too, but it is mainly the knits which catch the eye at the V&A's retrospective (until January 29), offering a feast of colour. No wonder that in these dark wintry days people are queuing to get in.

Thomas Hennell was not so much a craftsman himself as a passionate lover and recorder of craft. The show of his drawings and watercolours at the Fine Art Society until December 16 coincides with the appearance of Michael MacLeod's absorbing book on him (Cambridge University Press, £35), which reveals a much deeper, stranger and more tortured character than one would guess from his art-work. He was born in 1903, died in the Far East, apparently at the hands of disaffected natives, in 1945, and in between was quite insane (schizophrenic, apparently) for several years in the Thirties — an experience he chronicled with visionary clarity in his book *The Witnesses*. Armed with that knowledge, one can perhaps detect a Van Gogh-like intensity in his vision of haystacks or the biggest heap of scrapped horseshoes in the world. But even more telling are his self-effacing records of the tools and products of country craftsmen and a long-dead way of life: visionary clarity is in evidence here too, and the effect is quite haunting.

Tell it to the mountain

December is a cruel month for standing on the damp concrete floor of a disused car factory watching the performance, in Welsh mostly, of a 6th-century epic, it is an experience to remind one of the worst excesses of the *Mahabharata*.

The occasion is a performance by Aberystwyth-based Brith Gof, specialists in large-scale, athletically demanding theatre, works that regularly tour the European and South American festivals, but seldom cross the frontier into England.

Gododdin, earliest poem in the Welsh language, tells of a battle near modern Cardew where 300 Celtic warriors were defeated by the invading Angles. Its style — couplets that interestingly contain both alliteration and rhyme — make it stirring stuff to

THEATRE

Gododdin
Rover Car Factory,
Cardiff

chant, even if you can understand nothing but the passing of an occasional proper name: *Rhufon a Gwgon, Gwgon a Gwgon, Gwgon gorsaf wrig, gwrd yng ngeid*.

The poem mourns the death of the warriors, elevates them into heroes and cements nationhood, the function of epic everywhere. Brith Gof's method of staging the work seems to this visiting Saxon valiant but wrong-headed. An enormous arena of sand occupies the central area, planted

with lines of tree trunks and rising to a 40ft mountain in the middle. The 10 actors, kilted and bare-armed, march around the mound, skirmish with one another, clamber up pyramids of oil drums.

Water pouring from a vertical pipe gradually transforms the arena into a lake: the warriors ford it with poles (an effective tableau), roll about the pools, stand up, stumble again and finally arm themselves with the metal bonnets from wrecked cars and do battle against the factory wall.

This is accompanied by clanging percussive music from the group Test Dept, scored for horns, drums and scrap metal, played against a muffled delivery of fragments of text.

The obstacle (aside from the numbing cold) to any real appreciation of the material is the paucity of clues as to whereabouts we are in the story. This also troubled Welsh speakers. The long-awaited assault is both excitingly violent and enjoyably ear-splitting but events beforehand are unclear, irritatingly repetitious and, wherever you stand, keep going behind the mountain.

Jeremy Kingston



Hitting the high notes: Test Dept rehearsing the music for *Gododdin*

Lessons in life

Handle With Care
Old Red Lion

Jane Thornton's tough and tender play, on tour with Springboard Theatre Co since August, begins with its cast of four Yorkshire youngsters waiting at a bus stop for a coach to carry them off to a happier life elsewhere — happiness in this case being Scotland, where Donna's absent father is thought to be living.

The play then loops back to events earlier in the day, Donna's 17th birthday, darting between the different homes, workplaces and lunch-time meetings to build up a picture of the rotten parental pressures that provoked their flight. Donna's mother abuses her verbally; Lorraine's father takes his daughter to bed. Though the author also follows the bold attempt by young Darren (Matt Nodding, a bouncing clown) to win a boxing match, and the on-off affair that the jaunty but moody Stuart (Paul McCrinn, excellent) has with Donna, it is Donna's struggle to tug Lorraine from her father that forms the play's highly emotional core.

The writing combines drama with narrative address in a style racy enough to allow characters to comment crisply on one another's remarks to the audience. All four are on placement with various YTC schemes: factory, bakery, shop, but though the dialogue is pretty dismissive of such employment, the play's concern is not with how adolescents cope when work is scarce, but how they must fend for themselves when parental guidance is non-existent.

The first-rate young cast also play one another's parents, carping, seducing or, just occasionally, showing marks for affection. The most unnerving scene develops when Lorraine's father closes in on her to speak the wretched familiar line, "You and I have something special, don't we?" Shirley Jenkins movingly shows the dread that precedes the trip to the next room and the self-hating paralysis that follows.

As Donna, Gillian Baskiefield gives a touching portrayal of a girl whose freedom is virtually over at 17. The author ably directs her own play on a stage bare except for three grey blocks, and with no props other than a cassette recorder, boxing gloves and a birthday cake seen at various stages of being iced.

J.K.

High-class stunt man

Beethoven cycle
Festival Hall

CONCERTS

John Lenehan
Purcell Room

Loris Maazel's feat of conducting all nine Beethoven symphonies in a day was not quite the "odyssey of symphonic discovery" which the South Bank had been promising. Indeed, at times in a fraught and accident-filled performance of the Ninth Symphony the maestro and the London Symphony Orchestra looked as if they wished never to meet each other again — and occasionally sounded as if they had never met each other before.

That took the edge off a day of triumph for Maazel. Few conductors would possess either the character or the ability to guide

three different orchestras through a project of this kind, and all without a score in sight. But Maazel has long been a musician for whom mere concerts no longer seem to offer much of a challenge.

One may question his more extravagant ideas. But in a day which started at 10am with the Royal Philharmonic, and ended at 10.40pm with a standing ovation, it can genuinely be said that there was never a dull moment.

He is essentially a "hands on" conductor: no phrase passes without some nuance being applied. He is also a great thickener of orchestral texture — double woodwinds, heavy brass entries, six horns deployed to Mahlerian effect. Yet he often inspires graceful playing, despite the extra baggage. The scherzo of the *Eroica* (probably the day's best performance, played by the Philharmonia) skipped along delightfully: so did the finale of the Fourth (the LSO, in happier form than in the Ninth).

As a whole, the cycle certainly did not display the orchestras at their best. Much seemed under-rehearsed. But as a high-class stunt, designed to make a different sort of splash in the overcrowded pool of London music-making, there is no doubt that the event caught the public's imagination.

Richard Morrison

In an age which has raised the proliferation of minimal ideas to a cult, one would expect that a composer like Alkan with a reputation for working ideas to the limits of the possible would enjoy enormous popularity. There has indeed been a surge of interest in the music of this forgotten 19th-century genius in the centenary year of his death, but John Lenehan's masterly recital of a selection of his piano works was illuminating in the way it dissolved the apparent eccentricities into hardly exceptional Romantic traits. This was not the undisciplined, obsessional music generally associated with Alkan; on the contrary, Lenehan showed just how concentrated many of these utterances could be.

Doubtless a more flamboyant performer would have handled the fascinating Sonatine more demonstratively. Lenehan produced an interpretation that dwelt less on extremes and more on unities: an integrated and satisfying account. His strengths are his firm rhythmic underpinning and acute ear for inner contrapuntal lines.

The "Allegro barbaro", the fifth of the *Études*, op 35, with which he ended, is a scintillating study in octaves. Lenehan's performance rightly drew gasps and cheers.

Barry Millington

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ALL THINGS
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MEN

Blazer moves into the City and
proves that discretion is
always the better part of success

If the four men seen here were introduced at a party, they would not recognize that they all belong to the same sartorial "club". Membership is wide open. The club is Blazer, where men of all stripes elect to be dressed to their own, very different, rules.

So successful has this chain of discreet menswear shops been during 1988 — cherishing its solid, non-fashion ethos while expanding from six shops to 17 — it comes as a surprise to some customers that what they supposed was a private discovery has such a wide following.

Traditionalists can find reassuringly classic cords and tweed jackets hanging alongside Thirties-style raglan raincoats. Prospectors for the jeans and rough check shirts of the mythic West strike a well of rugged styles to relax in. Fashion-conscious City slickers emerge in well-cut pin-stripes with a dashing spotted silk waistcoat to wear with a dinner jacket.

Stephen Fry, Sir Roy Strong, Charles Dance, Harrison Ford and Tom Conti hardly share the same image, yet all are customers. Even the Duchess of York has been seen in a Blazer sweatshirt.

The appeal of Blazer is proof that, as in architecture, once the fundamental classical orders have been mastered, the scope of self-expression within the rules is limitless. Hackett, recently installed inside a glossy mahogany emporium in Covent Garden and in the throes of a nationwide expansion programme in partnership with Moss Bros, is the other spectacular example of success through supplying the basics of a gentlemanly wardrobe. If comparisons are to be made, Hackett prices seem up a notch from Blazer's and their style somewhat crustier. Next, however, seems to have been sidetracked into a more design-conscious idiom. A restaurant reviewer recently dissected accurately, if brutally, the "arriviste" clientele of one fashionable Soho eatery as "Next man".

David Krantz, of Blazer, is in no danger of becoming self-conscious about his image. His earliest gut feeling about a gap in the menswear market has proved right, and he is wisely sticking to it. Now 35, he has been in the business for 19 years. His first shop, Belt Up Jeans, had a short life at the start of the denim decade in 1971. His next shop, dedicated to traditional classics, opened in Golders Green in 1979. To set it apart from the crop of shops selling un-

structured, crumpled linen suits and leather blousons, Krantz went for a solidly British name, Blazer. He sold, and still sells, blazers, and is very much a grey-flannels-and-blazer dresser himself. But he discovered that the snag with the name was not that it limited the image of his stock-in-trade, but that it was simply difficult to register.

By the time he opened his second Blazer shop in Covent Garden in 1982 he had decided to start manufacturing for himself. De Havilland, a name picked at random while playing Trivial Pursuit, is the tag stitched inside Blazer's classic shirts. Today, 90 per cent of Blazer clothes carry their own labels, with only certain jeans bought from brand leaders, as well as the classic American Sebago loafer and British Cleaney punched brogues.

"Blazer's customer base is broad and within an age range from 18 to 50 or over. He is a guy like me," Krantz says. "He does not want anything loud. He expects value and clothes that last."

By 1987, Krantz had six Blazer shops in London and Guildford and was poised to be listed on the stockmarket. Then the City crash dictated a change in his plans and the chain became part of the Storehouse group.

Sales in any one Blazer at that time worked out at around £1,000 per sq ft, three times that of the average menswear retailer, and Sir Terence Conran (who buys his jumpers, belts and ties from this independent outpost of his empire) obviously has enough respect for Krantz's retailing abilities to allow him complete autonomy. With the backing of Storehouse, Blazer has grown to a chain of 17 shops — all in the South and Wales. Next year a further eight to 13 shops will open in the North and in Scotland, taking Blazer to full stretch until the planned move into European capitals.

The first Blazer shop in the City opens today, its stock mainly chalkstripe and Prince of Wales check suits that retail from £175 to £325. It is the structure inside a suit that matters, Krantz explains. That dictates the quality, and the price cannot be less.

The positioning of each branch determines the emphasis of what it sells. "I think with this range we have killed off the myth that Blazer stood only for a preppy look," Krantz says. "The customer dictates what he wants."



ABOVE: Graphic designer Ian Fletcher, with Harry the wolfhound, wears classic duster raincoat, £89.95; suede bomber jacket, £189; shetland cardigan, £45.95; denim shirt, £29.95; mustard paisley silk cravat, £26.95; college scarf in green, red and yellow, £15.50; beige chinos (trousers), £32.50; all Blazer

LEFT: Advertising executive Peter Suchet wears a double-breasted suit in Prince of Wales checked wool, cutted trousers, £195; shirt with button-down collar in pink Oxford cotton, £29.95; silk tie, £18.95; blue spotted silk handkerchief, £9.50; all Blazer

Photographs by CRENA WATSON
Grooming by Leslee Corcoran for Ales Associates,
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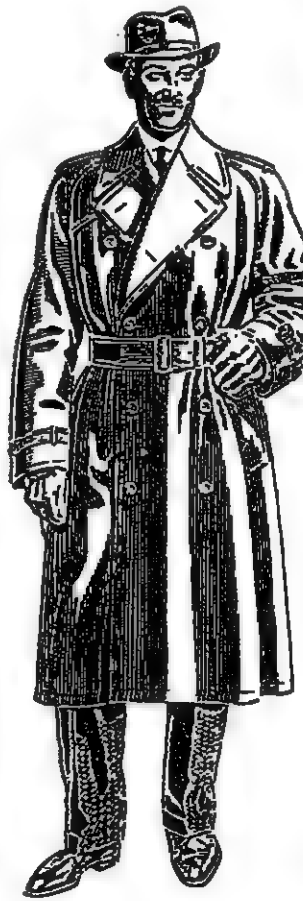
An era of
Burberry

Veteran of the trenches in the First World War, survivor of numerous polar expeditions with Scott, Amundsen and Shackleton, and star of many a movie whodunit, it is small wonder that the Burberry coat has become a museum piece.

Next week, an exhibition of 30 or so historic Burberry garments opens at the V&A. From the earliest rural smock, manufactured by Thomas Burberry for his outfitters' shop founded in Basingstoke in 1856, up to the latest Thomas Burberry range launched this autumn, the exhibition is testament to the enduring style and lovingly detailed finish of Burberry clothes.

Burberry regularly prints notices offering a new coat in exchange for a vintage relic. Costume historian Margot Coats, who has assembled the exhibition, especially relishes a coat with an interesting pedigree, be it a First World War trenchcoat that "bristles with dignity", or writer Anthony Powell's short and very 1970s style. One of the oldest, a khaki drab shooting jacket, dates from the 1890s and survived a long career with its ornithologist-owner, Colonel Willoughby Verner.

A Burberry outfit for every sport was meant to be included. One has eluded them. So if anyone has in their attic a ladies' golfing suit with hunch-up skirt (where the ankle-length skirt can be buttoned back to become knee-length) do send it along to the V&A.



● The Burberry Story is at the V & A from December 12 to August 31 next year.



City investment manager John Rosier wears charcoal pinstripe wool double-breasted suit, £325, shirt with cutaway collar in blue, white and red striped cotton, £34.95, red diamond patterned silk tie, £17.95, all Blazer



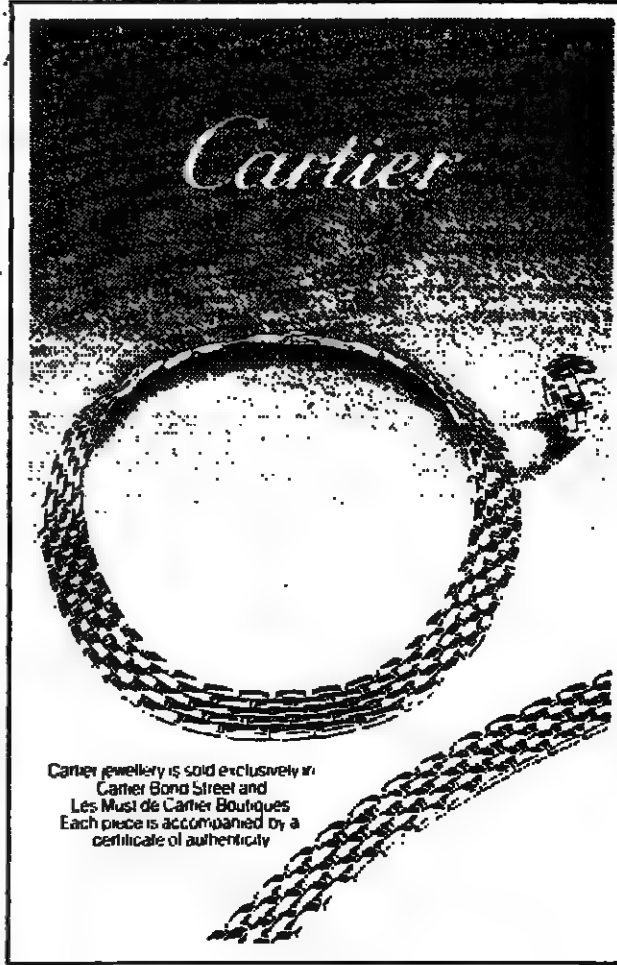
Architect Giles Quarme wears mustard herringbone-striped tweed jacket with leather elbow patches, £159.95; grey, maroon and gold Fair Isle jumper, £39.50; purple striped cotton shirt with button-down collar, £29.95; covert cloth cutted trousers, £59.95; navy and white spotted silk cravat, £28.95; all Blazer

All clothes from Blazer, 36 Long Acre WC2; 117b Long Acre WC2 (Sult Shop); 90 and 79 New Bond Street, W1; 170 Oxford Street, W1; 33a Kings Road, SW3; Derry Street, W8; 76 High Street, NW3; 29 Broadway, Ealing, W5; Shopping Centre, Milton Keynes; 66 High Street, Guildford; 10 The Square, Winchester; Above Bar Street, Southampton; 38-46 Broadmead, Bristol. Blazer opens today at Octagon Arcade, Broadgate EC2; next week at 15 Hill Street, Richmond and St David's Centre, Cardiff

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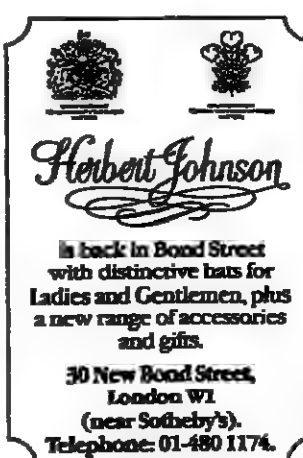
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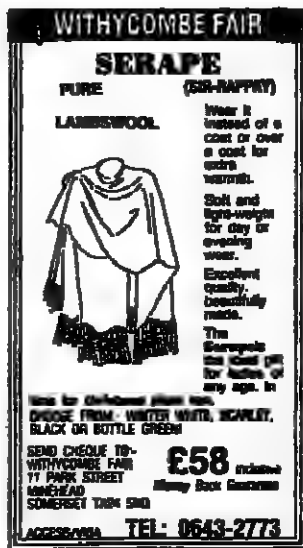
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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Electronics buy in US for Dobson

Dobson Park Industries, the mining equipment and engineering group, is to buy Transducers Inc, a US electronics company, for an initial \$14 million (£7.5 million) and a further \$6 million in deferred payments.

Pre-tax profits at Dobson Park jumped 25.6 per cent to £17.7 million for the year on turnover up 7 per cent to £236 million. The dividend is raised to 3.6p net per share, the first increase for five years.

The company is now undertaking a reorganization. Transducers made pre-tax profits last year of \$1.4 million on sales of \$11.6 million.

Tempos, page 24

Caradon leaps

Caradon, the building products group, raised pre-tax profits from £9 million to £15.4 million in the half year to October 4. The interim dividend is raised 1p to 3.5p.

Tempos, page 24

Norcros ahead

Norcros, the industrial holding company, raised pre-tax profits 15.3 per cent to £29.1 million in the six months to September 30. The interim dividend is raised 25 per cent to 5p.

Tempos, page 24

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2127.13 (+34.85)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	28614.66 (-50.82)
Hong Kong		
	Hang Seng	2871.28 (+4.00)
Amsterdam	Gen	271.12 (-0.18)
Sydney	AO	1447.2 (-6.4)
Frankfurt		
	Commerzbank	1589.9 (+10.6)
Bremen		
	General	5324.8 (-13.8)
Paris	CAC	3612.1 (-1.1)
Zurich	SKA Gen	588.7 (-1.2)
London		
	FT-30 All-Share	1439.0 (-0.7)
	FT-100	1761.6 (-3.4)
	FT Gold Mines	180.7 (+2.0)
	FT Fixed Interest	95.49 (-0.51)
	FT Govt Sec	95.34 (+0.04)
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MAIN PRICE CHANGES

MINES	
Barton Transport	700p (+20p)
Hammerman	880p (+13p)
Reuters	615p (+10p)
Highgate & Job	190p (+10p)
Jaguar	275p (+13p)

FALLS

Tunstall	580p (-25p)
A S Electronics	372p (-50p)
Body Shop	515p (-25p)
Stock Shop	215p (-17p)
Eurotherm	375p (-10p)
Blackleys	375p (-10p)
Amicorp	147p (-10p)
Federated Housing	230p (-27p)
S Miller	177p (-10p)
Ty Thomas	95p (-12p)
David & Newbury	615p (-12p)
Fobel	42p (-12p)
Sun Alliance	925p (-11p)
Logica	355p (-10p)
G H Scholes	255p (-10p)
Closing prices	
Bargains	2427p
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INTEREST RATES

London Bank Rate	12%
3-month Interbank 12m-13m	12%
3-month eligible bills 12m-12m	12%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate 10 1/2%	
Federal Funds 8 1/2%	
3-month Treasury bills 8.02-8.01%	
30-year bonds 9 1/2%-9 3/4%	

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£: \$1.8710	£: \$1.8700
£: DM3.2256	£: DM1.7233
£: Sfr12.7027	£: Sfr11.4432
£: ¥107.0108	£: ¥107.0071
£: ¥122.23	£: ¥121.41
£: Indec 78.7	£: Indec 78.7
ECU £0.845142	SDR £0.739138

GOLD

London Fixing	
AM \$420.40 pm \$429.00	
close \$429.75-429.25 (\$229.25-229.75)	
New York	
Comex \$429.00-429.50	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) pm \$14.00 (\$14.55)
Dutchies latest trading prices

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

- British Steel shares (03555) opened at a small premium on the 60p partly-paid price yesterday.
- Stockwatch gives instant access to more than 10,000 share, unit trust and bond prices. The information you require is on the following telephone numbers:
- Stock market comment: general market 0898 121220; company news 0898 121221; active shares 0898 121225; USM 0898 121250
- Calls charged at 5p for 8 seconds peak and 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.
- Details, page 26

Partly-paid shares hold steady in heavy turnover

Steel opens at a 3p premium

By David Brewerton

The drama of the British Steel flotation ended when the partly-paid shares opened at a premium of just 3p on the issue price at the start of dealings in London and New York.

The price remained close to its opening level, despite heavy turnover. It was effectively set by Shearson Lehman, the US securities house, when it became the first market-maker to display its price on Seag, the Stock Exchange pricing system.

Shearson opened the bidding at 62p bid, 64p offered, for the 60p partly-paid shares, demolishing the final hurdle the issue had to jump — opening at a premium rather than a discount.

Within the first 20 minutes, more than 100 million shares were traded through Seag, and at one point the price slipped to 59p-61p, although by the close of business it had rallied to a middle-market price of 62p, after 261 million shares were traded.

The modest opening premium, given the soft market

conditions yesterday, was considered satisfactory, although there is no profit at all for investors hoping to make a quick killing.

There was little evidence of institutions moving into the market to "top up" at any price, despite the "claw-back" of shares from overseas and British institutions to meet public demand. But soon after the market opened Goldman Sachs reported a trade of 1.12 million shares at 60p.

Mr Paul Richards, a director of Samuel Montagu, the Government's adviser, said: "We have a premium on the issue and everyone is feeling pretty pleased."

But Sir Robert Scholey, chairman of British Steel, said: "The City really has not been steel literate."

"In Tokyo the City equivalent knows all about steel and the same applies in the US. This has been an eye-opener for many people in our City. From here on it will be our job to maintain and develop that interest."

Sir Robert, aged 67, who became chairman of British Steel in April 1986, said there

had been some "bizarre anxieties" over the past few weeks about the flotation of shares but he had always been confident of the outcome.

British Steel, once the biggest public sector loss-maker, is forecasting £550 million profits for the coming year. It is the fourth-biggest steel-maker in the free world and offers steel at prices competitive with those of Third World countries.

Payment for the shares is in two parts — 60p now and 65p in September.

Meanwhile, as dealings started, about 2,000 suspect applications were being investigated by Touche Ross, the accountant. In some cases, multiple applicants will not know for several months that the Fraud Squad is investigating them.

The Steel sale marks the end of the Department of Trade and Industry's direct involvement in industry. The focus of privatization is likely to shift to the Energy Department (responsible for selling coal and electricity) and the Department of the Environment (responsible for selling water).



Fizzing over: Sir Robert Scholey celebrating his award and the start of dealings yesterday

Scholey wins business approval

Sir Robert Scholey — "Black Bob" to his friends in the steel industry — had the satisfaction of being named Businessman of the Year yesterday, despite the dull start to dealings in British Steel shares.

The British Steel chairman was given the award for "the vision and dedication" which have helped to transform Steel "from a record-breaking loser of a company into one of the

most efficient integrated steel producers in the world."

The award, organized for the Joint British Cancer Charities by JO Hambro & Co, is given for an outstanding contribution to the winner's own company, his community and the country.

Sir Robert was presented with his award at London's Savoy Hotel where he said he hoped he had helped to change

Steel's image as a "dirty, down-at-heel and passé industry," particularly in the City.

The panel of judges, which included Mr David Brewerton, The Times Executive Editor, Finance and Industry, commended Sir Robert for showing the toughest business decisions can be handled with human respect and for never forgetting a company is its people.

Kelt complains to Panel on possible Aran counter-bid

By John Bell, City Editor

Kelt Energy, which is bidding £207 million for Carless, has complained to the City Take-over Panel about a possible counter offer from Aran Energy, the Irish exploration group.

Aran shares were suspended on the Dublin and London exchanges prior to a statement that the group was in talks with Carless over a recommended offer. Aran promised more news within 48 hours.

Kelt feels the holding state-

ment from Aran leaves Carless shareholders in the dark at a late stage in its own bid.

Kelt's offer reaches its second closing date on Thursday. Its 115p per share cash alternative may be withdrawn on Thursday, if Kelt is not in a position to make its bid unconditional.

The French-controlled Kelt group wants the panel to rule that Carless must produce an offer immediately or make a

statement saying that there is no offer on the table.

Before Aran could make a firm offer it would require approval from the Department of Energy.

Unlike Kelt, Aran is not currently classified as an operator by the DOE. A bid for Carless by the much smaller Aran would also be subject to approval by Aran shareholders.

Kelt currently has control of about 48 per cent of Carless.

Shop sales at record levels

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The pound was the main beneficiary yesterday of the failure by the US authorities to raise interest rates, as official figures confirmed the strength of retail sales in Britain.

Sterling's strength again forced the Bank of England into action to restrain it, although the intervention was thought to have been modest.

Final October figures from the Department of Trade and Industry showed that the index of retail sales volume rose by 2 per cent to 141.2 (1980=100), easily a record level.

Sales were strong in all sectors, although there was a

small reduction in sales volume in clothing and footwear between September and October. The average weekly value of sales in October was £2.23 billion, up from £2.09 billion in September.

The figures, which contrasted with evidence from some leading retailers of a downturn in demand, and with Confederation of British Industry/Financial Times survey data, surprised the financial markets.

Consumer credit data from the DTI, also for October, displayed a mixed picture. Gross credit advances, at £3.45 billion, were slightly down on the

£3.57 billion September figure, but still at a high level.

But the increase in the amount of consumer credit outstanding, a rise of £81 million to £26.29 billion, was the smallest since November 1986, and down on the £321 million figure for September.

The pound continued to gain yesterday, benefiting from the failure of the US Federal Reserve Board to raise the official discount rate after the publication of US employment data on Friday. Sterling rose by 1.35 cents to \$1.8710, and by 1.5 pence to DM3.2256. The sterling index gained 0.2 points to 78.7.

£2bn fraud police hold Britons

By Tony Hetherington

Investigators in Spain and Switzerland have established links between fraudulent stockbrokers in Marbella and Lugano who are believed to be part of a worldwide network, covering 70 countries, which has cost investors an estimated £2 billion.

Police in Marbella have arrested a Briton, Mr Michael Reeve, after raiding the offices of Corany Investments. Corany is alleged to have been using high-pressure "boiler-room" telephone calls to investors in Britain to sell shares in the Bel Air Fund, said to be a Panama-registered currency futures business.

Five Americans escaped arrest, however, including Mr Ronald Ernest Barnhardt, a former Toronto stockbroker believed to be behind Corany. Interpol has been asked to help trace him. Corany was set up in September and operated from offices previously used by a similar company, First Gibraltar Financial Consultants, of which Mr Barnhardt was a director.

Police in Marbella believe First Gibraltar and Corany together netted as much as £200 million. Working from professionally prepared mailing lists and publicly available shareholders' registers of privatized companies, salesmen

would telephone likely investors and offer them shares in companies such as Pilgrim Venture, said to be a Florida advertising company tipped as "the Saatchi and Saatchi of tomorrow."

Pilgrim Venture collapsed when investigators from the Securities and Exchange Commission found it was a shell. An SEC official said: "The company had never carried on any legitimate business. The shares were selling at more than 100 times book value, and when we knocked on the doors of the people recorded as officers of the company, we found they did not even know each other. They were paid fronts. The company only existed on paper so the shares could be promoted in Europe."

Pilgrim Venture shares were also sold by brokers firms in Switzerland, where four companies, Chelsea Securities, Equity Management Services, Kettler Investments, and Falcontrust Financial, have been raided by police and closed down. More than 20 arrests have been made in Switzerland and at branches of the companies in France and Germany.

Those arrested include Mr Andrew Chapman, aged 52, a Briton who was a director of three of the four defunct businesses. French police are holding Mr

Thomas Quinn, a disgraced New York lawyer. Scotland Yard is investigating possible association with three controversial British share-dealing firms in recent years.

Swiss investigators led by Mr Laurent Kasper-Ansermet, a Geneva magistrate, have found evidence of bank transfers from the Swiss companies to Spain. SEC officials say they know the identity of an associate of Mr Quinn whom they had expected to surface as a salesman at one of the Swiss firms. Instead, the man was found to be working for First Gibraltar, giving investigators their first clear link between Mr Quinn and the Marbella company.

Mr Kasper-Ansermet said yesterday that he was disappointed the Spanish authorities had not acted sooner to arrest those behind the fraud. "I am very sad about this. The Spanish police have only just begun to act. Some of the Spanish boiler-rooms are clearly connected to the cases I am investigating and evidence from the wanted Americans would have been extremely useful."

Spain has little in the way of investor protection legislation, and with the swindlers careful never to cheat Spanish citizens, there has been little pressure on the authorities to act.

US links tariff cuts to EEC subsidies

From Bailey Morris

Trade ministers from the world's rich countries offered important concessions yesterday to poorer countries in the first breakthrough in the talks to cut protectionism under the Uruguay Trade Round.

The majority of the 96 nations attending the talks under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade agreed to proposals that would reduce tariff barriers on an estimated \$70 billion (£37.43 billion) of trade for the developing world.

Without these concessions on trade in tropical products and the new proposals to reduce tariffs for the poorest nations, the talks would have collapsed, officials said.

The agreement on tropical products is the first time developing nations have agreed to break domestic barriers on the import of goods.

But the US will agree to reforms in tropical products only if they are linked to the successful outcome of the negotiations on agricultural subsidies which have led to a bitter dispute with Europe.

Lord Young, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said: "We must reach an agreement on tropical products, an area of great importance to developing countries."

Britain is expected to play a strong role in the battle to cut agricultural subsidies which began last night. Lord Young added: "The most important subject at this meeting is agriculture. High levels of support in many countries have led to large increases in output. Surpluses have piled up and the costs are high. We in the EEC have made significant reforms. But they are a first step towards more market-orientated policies we need."

DC Wilson in liquidation

DC Wilson and Partners, the Manchester firm which advised thousands of clients to invest in the crashed Barlow Clowes empire, has gone into liquidation. In June, the firm's licence to trade was suspended by Fimbra, the brokers and intermediaries supervisor.

Mr Derek Slade, of Arthur Young, the chartered accountant, has been appointed liquidator. He said Wilson directors believed there was no justification for the suspension but decided on a liquidation to safeguard their position and that of the creditors. Inquiries should go to Mr Slade at Arthur Young, Commercial Union House, Albert Square, Manchester.

W Collins rejects 'ludicrous' NI bid

By Our Financial Staff

William Collins has rejected as "ludicrously low" the takeover bid by News International which values the Glasgow publisher at £293 million.

In a letter to shareholders, Mr Ian Chapman, chairman of Collins, says "Collins' excellence merits a premium rating" because of its achievements of the eighties and its investment for the nineties.

But in the bid document, Mr Rupert Murdoch, chief executive of News International, strongly criticized recent management performance and low morale at Collins and said NI wished to strengthen management.

However, Mr Chapman says NI's representatives on the Collins board have at no time expressed concern with the strength of Collins management and charges that the critique was "clearly manufactured for the purposes of a cheap bid". News Inter-

national already owns 42 per cent of Collins voting shares and 10 per cent of its non-voting capital and argues that it has no need to pay a premium price. But Collins says other shareholders should not be pressured by a shareholder with less than 20 per cent of all the share capital.

"Our authors are our life blood," says Mr Chapman. Collins says it has an exceptional collection of copyrights and skills in acquiring new authors. It also anticipates that investment in titles already under preparation will deliver "continuing high levels of growth".

"This bid threatens one of the few remaining independent UK publishers of stature," says Mr Chapman. "For this reason, if no other, it is a serious matter for shareholders, authors, customers and employees alike."

Letters, page 15

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Willaire pays £4.3m for two companies

Willaire Group, the electronics, environmental and industrial services company, is paying at least £4.3 million for Medical Air Technology, which specializes in medical and pharmaceutical applications, and Climperhurst, which maintains air conditioning units. A further £1.25 million may be payable depending on future profits.

The deal will be financed via the issue of 23.89 million new ordinary shares, on a 2.79-for-10 basis. The issue is underwritten by Chase Investment Bank, which has agreed to pay 18p per share. Willaire's shares fell 1p to 19p on the news. Medical Air Technology achieved pre-tax profits of £536,000 in the year ended March, while Climperhurst made £116,000 pre-tax. Willaire also forecast an increase in pre-tax profits from £1.32 million to £2.3 million for the year to end-December, and a final dividend of 0.5p (0.35p) per share.

Acal ahead at half time

Acal, the electronic components and industrial controls distributor, increased pre-tax profits from £1.17 million to £1.70 million for the six months to September 30, mainly due to strong order growth, particularly in continental Europe. Turnover rose from £17.83 million to £20.83 million. Earnings per share were 7.6p (5.7p). The interim dividend is 1.35p.

89% rise for Beaverco

Shares in Beaverco, the Unlisted Securities Market-quoted manufacturer of fire-retardant safety foam, rose 5p to 250p after the announcement of pre-tax profits up 89 per cent, from £560,000 to £1.06 million, in the six months to September 31. Earnings per share rose from 5.4p to 9.3p. The interim dividend was raised from 1.7p to 1.9p.

Interim £3m at Leigh

Leigh Interests, the Walsall waste disposal firm, increased pre-tax profits from £1.79 million to £3.03 million for the six months to September 30. However, the company admitted some of its plants had suffered difficulties during the period following criticism over the impact of about 2,000 tons of toxic waste from the controversial Karen B ship this year. Turnover rose to £24.17 million (£20.42 million). Earnings per share were 7.0p (5.6p) and the interim dividend is up from 1.83p per share to 2.02p.

Clayhithe up to £1.83m

Clayhithe, the property and investment company which merged with the Betec engineering group last year, raised pre-tax profits for the six months to end-September from £914,000 to £1.83 million. Turnover was up from £11.30 million to £13.01 million, with earnings per share rising from 3.77p to 7.76p. An interim dividend of 1.50p (0.75p) is declared.

Allied Irish raises offer

Allied Irish Banks has raised its offer for the outstanding shares of First Maryland Bancorp from \$340 million (£181.91 million) to \$371 million. The new offer is recommended by the FMB board. AIB owned 49.7 per cent of FMB when it made its offer in September. AIB says the new offer would not result in any initial dilution of earnings per share.

Whitbread expands

Homark Associates, a leading maker of beer engines and other drink-dispensing equipment, has been bought by Whitbread, the brewer, for an undisclosed sum. Homark, a private company which employs 160 people and has factories in Poole and Wareham, Dorset, and Rotherham, South Yorkshire, will be integrated with Whitbread's Intec Services which supplies and installs dispensing and other equipment for public houses. Homark last year had a turnover of £4 million with pre-tax profits of £310,000.

Dobson deal raises question marks

When last July Dobson Park Industries bought MS International's mining equipment division and simultaneously disposed of its 28.3 per cent holding in MS, it looked the perfect deal. Dobson got the bit of MS it really wanted when it launched its abortive £33 million bid earlier in the year, while MS was freed from the threat of a new Dobson bid.

MS also got a very attractive price for its mining equipment division — just how attractive becomes clearer with Dobson's preliminary results. Dobson paid £12.5 million cash for the division, and lost a further £2 million or so on the placing of MS shares. It also provided an additional £7.9 million against reserves for reorganization costs.

In all Dobson appears to have paid £22.4 million for an annual profits stream of £1.2 million before tax, rising to £1.9 million after reorganization. Admittedly, the deal makes Dobson joint market leader with Dowty, but it is questionable how desirable it is to be a leading player in a declining industry.

Analysts will also raise a question mark over the accounting treatment of the £2 million loss on the MS share disposal. Normally gains and losses on share transactions are taken through the profit and loss account, but Dobson argues that as the share sale was a condition of the whole deal, it can treat the loss in the

same way as goodwill and write it off against reserves.

With goodwill, reorganization provisions and other fair value adjustments, shareholders' funds are reduced by £15.8 million as a result of this deal.

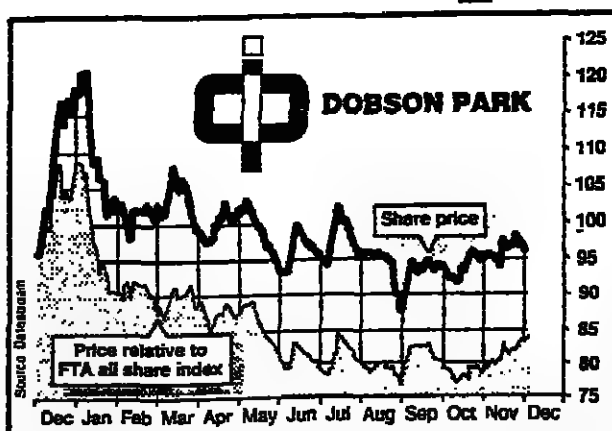
Meanwhile, the group is having rather more success with its industrial electronics division. The acquisition of Transducers Inc will make Dobson one of the larger players in the US. The company makes medium-tech components for weighing machines, and is a good bolt-on acquisition for its Reverse subsidiary.

Mr Sandy Morris, analyst at County NatWest WoodMac, is looking for just a modest profit advance this year to £18.5 million, up 5 per cent. The prospective multiple is about right at 8.4 times, but investors may be tempted by the 7.5 per cent yield.

Caradon

Caradon is hoping to be the exception that proves the rule — a building materials stock that uses its concentration on quality-branded products to evade the much-predicted downturn in the building industry.

It relies for 75 per cent of its sales on the housing repair and maintenance market, set to rise by 7 per cent in the current year and 3 per cent in 1989, according to a building materials industry forecast published yesterday.



The Everest double glazing business, performing miserably when it was bought from RTZ in May, should be good for future growth beyond the current financial year as Caradon sees the benefit of cost-cutting, a more focused approach to marketing, and incentive packages for its sales force — all noticeably lacking under its previous ownership.

Caradon's pre-tax profits of £15.4 million in the half year to October 4, up from £9 million last time, included only a minimal contribution from Everest. Caradon's core businesses, which include Twyford's Bathrooms, Mira showers and Celform cladding, saw a 15 per cent volume rise during the first half, and the company claims no sign of a sales downturn since.

Caradon believes it should be able to raise Everest profits to 10 or 12 per cent of sales, now running at £120 million a year, once reorganization and revitalization is complete.

This would be on the basis of a 6 per cent market share in this country, which could be expanded to 10 per cent within 5 years.

Meanwhile, capital spending, which doubled this year to £20 million, is directed to strengthening cost control in the core businesses rather than raising output.

But uncertainty about its vulnerability to high interest rates will continue until the full benefits of Everest are seen.

At yesterday's share price, up 4p at 322p, the shares are changing hands at about 9.3 times future earnings, assuming an easily achievable £32 million before tax in the current year.

Lexicon cuts its losses and maintains payout

By Wolfgang Münch

Lexicon, the troubled Boston, Mass., manufacturer of specialist audio equipment with a London quotation, has cut its losses to \$906,000 (£484,000) from \$1.62 million for the year ended August 31. Sales rose 43 per cent to \$9.9 million. The company says it has reached break-even point during the last few months. It recently introduced three products for the high-end consumer and the small studio market.

The three were introduced during the second half of the year, but sales and profitability were hit by start-up delays, which, the company claims,

have been rectified. The improvement in the dollar/yen exchange rate, the use of off-shore manufacturing and spin-offs from the high end of digital processing technology, have helped to achieve the improvement.

Costs may decline further as research and development expenditure, as a percentage of sales, is likely to fall.

R&D expenditure increased from \$2.45 million to \$2.85 million. Losses per share doubled to \$0.06. Despite the losses, Lexicon's directors have maintained the dividend at 0.25 cents — unchanged from last year.

Hinari switch towards European manufacture

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Hinari, which claims to be Britain's fastest-growing consumer electronics group, is switching more of its sourcing to Europe. It already has a factory in Britain.

It also has a stock market flotation as an option on its road to rapid expansion, which is making Mr Brian Palmer, Hinari's founder and chairman, the counterpart in a largely different sector of Mr Alan Sugar at Amstrad.

Amstrad is mainly involved in computers while Hinari — a name designed to give a "Japanese" flavour — is in small domestic electrical appliances, television sets and video and audio products. There is some direct competition with Amstrad, notably in video cassette recorders.

Hinari Consumer Electronics, based in Scotland, was formed in 1985 and in the first year had a pre-tax profit of £152,000 on sales of £10.5 million. This year a £3.1 million profit is expected on a turnover of £70.5 million; sales in the first six months doubled on last year. Next year sales are forecast at £120 million.

About 8 per cent of Hinari products are made at Cumbernauld, near Glasgow, where its products are also designed. So far a range of kettles is manufactured — Hinari claims 10 per cent of Britain's electric



On line for growth: Brian Palmer, chairman of Hinari

kettles market — but a new product is also to be made there. This is a combined compact disc, cassette deck and radio being made in the Far East but due for assembly at Cumbernauld from April. Hinari sources mainly from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan largely because of the availability of components in the Far East. Pricing is crucial but Mr Palmer is looking to

bring more manufacturing to Europe as the single market approaches and the possibility of trade barriers looms. Sourcing of TV sets in Spain is being planned for next year. "I would like to think we will manufacture more of our own products," he said.

Hinari started with "me-too", or copy-cat products, but two years ago moved into innovative ones.

be too preoccupied with their own problems although that may change if Norcross shares suddenly become very cheap.

Group pre-tax profits for the half year to September were 18 per cent higher at £29.1 million with earnings per share showing an 11.9 per cent advance to 14.1p.

UBM saw profits slump 40 per cent to £3.4 million. The business was badly hit by reorganization costs aimed at reducing overheads. The print and packaging side produced virtually unchanged earnings of £6.3 million on turnover up 10 per cent. But while trading profits in local currencies were ahead, sterling profits fell £800,000 as a result of exchange rate movements.

The ceramics division made £8.5 million, up from £6.8 million, while the building products pushed up profits from £3.5 million to £6.4 million. Property, an increasingly important contributor to the group, dipped in £8.6 million.

For the current year Norcross should be capable of making just over £73 million where the shares, at 309p, down 11p on the results, are on a p/e of just under nine. But it could start to feel the crunch next year as interest rates start to bite. Buyers keen on a company now under an energetic new management could find cheaper buying opportunities in 1989.

B&T up to £4.5m at half time

Brown & Tawse, the Dundee steel stockholder and pipe distributor, had a 28 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £4.5 million in the six months to end-September.

Despite a rise in interest charges from £546,000 to £831,000, margins continued to improve on turnover up 19 per cent to £81 million. The chairman says acquisitions and new branches reinforced sales growth and profits.

The interim dividend has been raised by 19 per cent to 2.85p per share on earnings up 28 per cent to 10.3p.

B&T says the second half has started well.

Appeal delays merger case

A hearing on the plan for a merger between London Life and Australian Mutual Provident was yesterday adjourned until next Monday.

This will allow time for the hearing of an appeal by Mr Julian Byng, a London Life policyholder, over the validity of the vote in October which gave an 85 per cent majority in favour of the merger plan.

Mr Byng alleged the first of two extraordinary meetings to decide the matter should not have been adjourned without a vote. He is appealing against last month's High Court ruling by Mr Justice Vinelott that London Life's management acted properly in adjourning the meeting.

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TI offshoots sold for total of £141m

By John Bell, City Editor

TI Group, the specialist engineering concern, is selling two of its motor components companies for £110 million in cash to Arvin Industries, of the US.

The two companies, TI Cheswick and TI Bainbridge, have a strong presence in the European slinger market but little business in North America or other world markets, said TI.

TI is also selling its wholly-owned subsidiary, Standard Tube Canada, to Ferrum Inc for about £31 million. The Canadian activities did not fit in with TI's strategy.

TI added that substantial investment would be needed to develop TI Cheswick and TI Bainbridge into world leaders. The required level of investment would not represent the best possible use of TI's resources.

The sales are in line with TI's current strategy of developing businesses which can command technological or market share leadership.

The combined 1987 turnover of Cheswick and Bainbridge totalled £104.6 million. Combined operating profit was £11.3 million.

Unaudited management accounts for the 10 months to the end of October show sales of £105.6 million and operating profit of £12.2 million. Net assets at the end of last year were £23.4 million.

Effectively TI is selling the subsidiaries for about 13 times expected earnings and will receive a net inflow of about £140 million. This will reduce gearing to below 15 per cent.

Opec output at record

A record 23 million barrels of oil a day was produced by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries last month, even as the 13-nation cartel was holding discussions about ways of cutting its output.

The Opec accord reached at the end of last month set

production at 18.5 million barrels per day from January 1.

And according to the Middle East Economic Survey weekly newsletter, published yesterday, projected production figures for this month are set even higher.

COMPANY BRIEFS

HARMONY LEISURE (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.258 (£0.109)m
EPS: 0.72p (0.66p)
Div: Nil (nil)

MORRIS ASHBY (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.55 (£0.336)m
EPS: 4.33p (3.73p)
Div: 1.7p

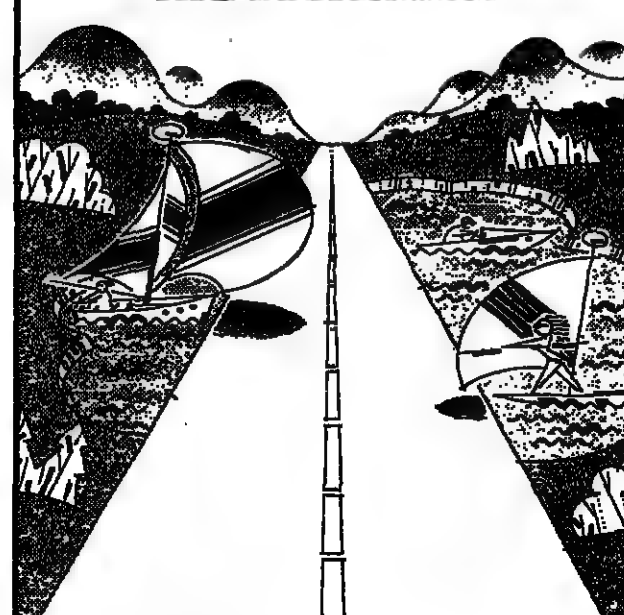
STERLING PUBL (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.522 (£0.202)m
EPS: 1.91p (0.83p)
Div: Nil

Board intends to continue acquiring freehold and leasehold opportunities as well as expanding its leisure activities.

The Kaye (Presteligne) subsidiary has extended its foundry which will enable it to take advantage of its strong order book.

Board reports that trading activity remains strong, with an increase in turnover rose to £5.98 million (£3.44 million).

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I would like to know more. To: Fred McLaughan
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NAME _____ POSITION _____

COMPANY _____

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TELEPHONE _____

THE
WEST LANCs
PROJECT

BP to expand mineral side in Aus\$2bn five-year plan

From David Young, Melbourne

The upsurge in the Australian economy predicted for next year has led to the world's leading oil company actively seeking to take over opportunities in the country's mineral industry.

BP yesterday unveiled spending plans of Aus\$2 billion (£938 million) in the next five years which will strengthen its position in Australia. It is also understood to have made inquiries about taking over an existing mineral operation.

BP has had several confident predictions, from within the company, that the Australian economy is about

to grow and is making plans to increase its investments in its oil fields, coal mines, mineral mines and network of oil terminals and filling stations.

BP has drawn up detailed plans for substantial investments in Australia and has the backing of the main BP board in London.

However, the company is determined that in future it will be the main partner in any joint venture in Australia. It has just started to produce gold, silver, copper and uranium from the world's biggest deep mine at Olympic Dam in the centre of the country. Although owning 50 per cent,

the operations are being carried out by an Australian-owned company.

The first shipment of uranium will leave for Britain in the new year, under a contract BP has with the Central Electricity Generating Board.

BP also said yesterday that it is in informal discussions with the electricity industry about supplying coal for the British power stations.

Although every ton of BP coal would cost between \$12 and \$15 a ton to be transported to British power stations from Australia, its production price of \$36 a ton would still undercut coal pro-

duced from British pits. BP Coal Australia would only be able to provide about 1 million tons a year for the British power industry.

However, Australia's coal industry is being badly affected by labour disputes.

Mr Alan Oakes, a former NCB miner who now runs BP Coal operations in Australia said yesterday: "1988 has been a bad year for industrial disputes... We have exactly the same attitude here among our miners when it comes to introducing flexible working—Arthur Scargill is a local hero here—but we are in the process of getting changes."

Receiver is called in at Sound Diffusion

Sound Diffusion, the electrical equipment leasing group, has gone into receivership. The shares were suspended at 21½p down ½p, yesterday when Mr David Macdonald, the chairman, asked Bank of Scotland, its main lender, to appoint a receiver.

The move comes three weeks after Mr Frank Andrew was appointed managing director. Mr Macdonald, a former director-general of the Takeover Panel, was himself brought in to try to save the group 12 months ago.

Tunstall, the security group, which has a 4.9 per cent stake, bought at about 65p per share 15 months ago, said it was extremely disappointed to have heard of the group's collapse second hand. Mr Macdonald said that, although the company's main overdraft was for £12 million, it had used £8 million of the facility and was faced with large bills soon.

OFT approval

The Office of Fair Trading is not referring the Australian National Industries bid for Aurora, nor the offer by Banner Industries for Avdel, to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Seiby Season's acquisition of Grand Metropolitan's Inter-Continental Hotels has also been cleared.

Brierley stake

Sir Ron Brierley's Industrial Equity Pacific has bought 10.3 per cent in Caledonia Investments, which is re-investing the proceeds of redeemable preference shares received in exchange for its stake in British & Commonwealth.

Site for sale

Camford Engineering plans the sale of its Geo W King factory site in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, and relocation to another in the town. Camford hopes to raise £20 million minimum.

Reply to bid

Armstrong Equipment, the Coventry shock absorber manufacturer, today produces its defence document against the £85.4 million hostile bid by Wardle Storeys, the plastic products group.

Emess buys

Emess, the lighting group, has completed the purchase of 45 per cent of Transmorphic Electronics, which manufactures electrical and electronic components in Hong Kong and China.

COMMENT

Thomson's North Sea timing goes astray

With truly appalling timing, International Thomson has decided to pull out of the North Sea.

In the days when practically every independent company in the exploration sector was looking for tax shelter, any number of them would have given an arm and a leg to get hold of Thomson's revenue streams from Piper and Claymore. Today, the assets look considerably less attractive.

For a start, neither Piper nor Claymore is on stream. Claymore is expected to recommence production quite soon, but there is likely to be a delay before petroleum revenue tax payments are resumed.

In the case of Piper, purchasers will be hard pressed to know quite what they are buying. A new field development plan will need to be submitted to the Department of Energy for approval, and Thomson believes that it is only right and proper that the new owner should be involved in the development decision.

However, as with all new developments, there are variety of ways of developing them, all with their own cost implications. And given the tragic nature of the Piper disaster, there could be unforeseen delays to development, or the risk of litigation.

A purchaser could seek indemnities against legal action, but if it is tax shelter he is looking for, Piper is unlikely to oblige until the 1990s.

But there is a further question as to how much demand is left for tax shelter deals. The last such sale, BP's Magnus, is thought to have been disappointing both because of the price realized and the fact that only 15 per cent was sold rather than 20 per cent.

Finally, there remains the execrable state of the oil market itself. After a momentary bout of euphoria when the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries appeared to have an agreement, reality quickly set in when it was realized that the cartel would be pumping oil for all it was worth until the agreement came into effect in January.

There are still buyers about — mainly foreign oil companies, many state owned, such as Repsol and Petrobras. Monument Oil, the British independent, is also in the market for assets, but will not overpay. This could be just the sort of knockdown sale it is looking for.

Jaguar in the frame

The Government's golden share in Jaguar, the luxury car maker, stands sentinel until the end of 1990 against any predator wherever based. Yet a wave of buying pushed Jaguar shares up 5p to 265p on Friday and to a peak of 280p yesterday, dropping back at the close to 275½p, after 4.1 million shares changed hands.

It might just be dawn raid talk which is lifting Jaguar despite its problems in the crucial US market where profits shrink as the dollar weakens against sterling. But it could be a good time for stake-building in Jaguar for car makers with an eye not only to the single European market but the need for a more credible presence worldwide.

In any prospective predator-parade West Germany's Volkswagen, which includes Audi, must stand out.

It could be argued that Fiat, possibly Volvo and perhaps even France's state-owned Renault might be putative predators. But Ford and General Motors should not be underestimated.

Strong medicine to stay

Final October retail sales figures from the Department of Trade and Industry showed, not the downward revision that the City had been expecting, but a small increase in the provisional estimate. Thus retail sales volume is now thought to have jumped by 2 per cent during the month, and by more than 6 per cent on a year earlier, providing the Chancellor with ample justification for his most recent tightening of monetary policy.

In the boardrooms of some of our leading retailers, however, a very different assessment is emerging of the strength of demand in the high street. Big items of household expenditure have been suffering for some time and the downturn in demand is now hitting clothing and footwear. Christmas spending clearly distorts the picture, but retailers have little doubt that underlying demand is weaker.

The fear, therefore, is of interest rate overkill, and a hard landing for the economy rather than a gentle deceleration into sustainable growth. This, however, is a fear that the Chancellor is almost duty bound to ignore. Having, on his own admission, relaxed monetary policy too much after the October 1987 market crash, he cannot afford to repeat the mistake. Policy has to be kept tight, and perhaps even pulled tighter, until there is much clearer evidence both of a sharp slowdown in demand and of falling inflation.

This may mean ignoring favourable evidence. The consumer credit figures for October, also published yesterday, showed an increase in the amount outstanding on consumer credit agreements of just £81 million, the smallest since November 1986. If not for the disastrous trade figures, this information would doubtless have been interpreted by Whitehall as firm evidence that the Chancellor's high interest rate medicine was working.

Profit warning by Reject Shop

By Rosemary Unsworth
Retail Affairs
Correspondent

The Reject Shop, which was listed on the Unlisted Securities Market last June, has joined other high street retailers in giving a warning that second-half profits will be hit by the consumer spending downturn.

Announcing that pre-tax profits were £227,000 compared with £49,000 for the 28 weeks to October 2 1988, the company, which has 14 shops in its chain, said that Christmas trading would be affected by restrictions on spending.

"However, with trading at current levels, I remain confident of a satisfactory outcome for the year as a whole," said Mr Jack Aaronson, the chairman.

Turnover rose by almost 40 per cent from £5.4 million to £7.5 million in the first half and the interim dividend is 1.85p.



Joint managing directors Anthony Hawser and Anna Vinton at Kings Road, Chelsea, store

3i rises by 56% to half-time £119m

By Our City Staff

3i Group, the venture capital and investment company, reported a 56 per cent rise in income and capital profits to £119.1 million in the half year to September 30.

Shareholders are to receive a 50 per cent boost in interim dividend to 3p per share, compared with 2p as adjusted for the recent one-for-one scrip issue.

After falling in the last three months of 1987, the value of 3i's investments has been restored to growth, thanks to

the strength of corporate profits, said the company. After-tax returns, excluding the dividend, were £108.4 million in the half year, compared with £116.3 million in the whole of the previous financial year. New investment was £277.6 million against £285.6 million in the first six months of last year.

Sir John Cuckney, the chairman, said the interim results reflected continuing growth in the small and medium business sector.

Alexon advances 30% in first half

By Our Retail Affairs Correspondent

Alexon, the women's fashion group and a supplier to Marks and Spencer, reports a 30 per cent rise in interim profits and added that current trading is "encouraging".

Pre-tax profits rose from £4.2 million to £5.5 million in the 26 weeks to September 9 while turnover jumped from £28.8 million to £46.8 million.

Alexon took over Ellis & Goldstein, another women's wear group and Richarvey, an importer from the Far East, this year. Mr Peter Wiegand,

the chairman, said that the recent rise in interest rates was unlikely to affect Alexon's orders as its customers either benefited from higher rates or were in parts of the market which are relatively immune.

He said that the enlarged group would increase turnover and profit in the short and long-term. The interim dividend has been increased from 2.5p to 4p to provide a more even balance in the payments. Last year, the final was 5.5p.

Friendly to open floating hotels

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Mr Henry Edwards, who built up then sold two national hotel chains and is now developing another, has bought into a new hotel concept — the floatel.

Mr Edwards's Friendly Hotels is buying the floatel company and the idea which has been developed by Mr Gerald Braban, an entrepreneur. The Friendly Floatels will be the first British floating hotels.

The first floatel is due to open next autumn on a riverside site, leased from British

Waterways, in Northwich, Cheshire. It will be permanently anchored on the river with car parking on the bank.

There will be all the comforts of a three-star hotel, including public areas, but with a marine flavour as bedrooms become "cabins" and suites "state rooms."

The plan is to attract business traffic during the week but to capitalize on the marine environment to bring in more tourists at the weekend.

At least six sites for floatels

are being investigated, including lakesides. Some locations may lend themselves to mainly tourist development.

The floatel is built up out of a series of "rafts" each taking a module of about 20 bedrooms or public spaces, including lobbies, bars and meeting rooms. Mr Edwards said: "All are completely interconnected so there is no venturing out into the weather. The bonus are the views and the general atmosphere."

Mr Braban will continue an

active association with the venture and is taking a shareholding.

Friendly, as well as running its expanding hotels chain, also operates in fast-food outlets, elderly care homes and fully-serviced business centres.

Two three-star hotels are being built at Norwich, Norfolk, and Caen, in Normandy. Mr Edwards built up the Centre Hotels chain, which he sold to Bass, and Comfort Hotels acquired by Ladbrokes.

P&D tops up its teams

While morale within the Square Mile is still depressed by rumours of imminent and massive redundancies in the hard-pressed securities industry, some firms are still, it seems, actively recruiting more staff. One such is Phillips & Drew which will this week announce that it has boosted its research teams with the appointment of four newcomers. The quartet, all aged under 35, comprises

Alasdair Nisbet, aged 26, who is leaving James Capel to join Chris Burbridge on the chemicals desk next month; Stephen Milne, aged 33, from Warburgs, who will be working with Eric Francis on breweries from December 28; Nizam Hamid, aged 23, who was with Stock Beach and started work at P&D yesterday on the electricals desk, alongside Nick Measham and Stephen Parker; and Mark Dixon, aged 28, from National Investment Group, who will, with Jeremy Elden, be specializing in North Sea and domestic oil stocks. "They are all youngsters coming in to strengthen our teams and give them depth," says Alan Jones, director of United Kingdom company research. "In fact the recruits to the oil, drink and electricals desks are all net additions." But Phillips & Drew has not had it all its own way. Two members of its corporate finance department, Andrew Best and Richard Birch, have, I hear, just left the firm to join its rival County NatWest WoodMac.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Mud flies at Cazenove

The common criminal clearly has less respect for Cazenove, that most blue-blooded of brokers, than most in the Square Mile. For the firm's distinctive blue, stretched, Ford car, bearing the personalised number plate MUD 27, has, I hear been stolen in broad daylight from outside its prestigious Tokenhouse Yard offices. To

add insult to injury, its porters — known as footmen at Caz — actually watched the crime being committed last week on a closed circuit television network. And to compound the issue I'm told that the firm may now find its insurance policy invalidated since the keys had been left in the ignition.

Hugh makes their night

More than 900 City slickers turned out at the Savoy Theatre on Sunday evening to have condoms thrown at them by a singing Richard Branson — wearing, for a few moments



at least, a bowler hat and suit — watch an invigorating impersonation of Elvis Presley by Hill Samuel manager John Hyatt, hear Adam Faith sing a couple of numbers from his musical Budgie, and be entertained by Sunday Telegraph City Editor Alex Murray, singing his own rhythm and blues songs as part of a band called Alex Murray and The Minis. In all, some 17 acts were crammed into two hours of high-slapping entertainment, for the fourth annual show staged by the Square Mile Charitable Trust. "It was the best one ever, largely because he had a professional director, Hugh Woollidge, this time," says Trust secretary Amelia Baring, wife of Francis Baring, an employee of the family bank and cousin of its present chairman. The £50,000 or so raised will benefit three charities — Help the Hospices, The Queen Elizabeth Foundation for the Disabled, and BACUP, which rehabilitates cancer patients after treatment.

Speaking out at last

Overshadowed somewhat by the reputations of his father, Gwilym Lloyd George, Home Secretary at the time of Suez, and grandfather David Lloyd George, the legendary Prime Minister, the family's third Viscount, Bill Tenby, had been understandably apprehensive about making his maiden speech in the House of Lords. But last week, amid a debate about the state of Britain's prisons, and five years after he had succeeded to the title, he finally made his debut. Speaking from personal experience as a magistrate — the former public relations director at Kleinwort Benson, now a non-executive director of the City security printer Williams Lea, he is also deputy chairman of the third largest Bench in Hampshire — Tenby, aged 61, spoke passionately about the need for punishment to fit the crime. Claiming that "there are many in prison who ought not to be there," he said he suspected that this was, in many cases, because magistrates had simply "run out of any other options." A cross-bencher, he advocated increased use of community service orders, bail hostels, attendance at day centres and realistic compensation. And his words were, of course, warmly received. Congratulating him, Lord Soper replied: "The debate has been enriched by his comments... We hope he will enrich debates in the future as he has done today." Those who remember him from his City days will be in no doubt...

Carol Leonard

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BRITISH MIDLAND

BUSINESS LETTERS

Conflict of loyalty during bids

From Mr J.V.C. Butcher
Sir, Your report (November 29) about the request from United Biscuits (UB) to its main banker, the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), for an assurance that RBS will not support a hostile bid for UB, raises a major ethical issue facing banks and others who provide services of a professional type.

Where a conflict of loyalties between clients arises, it should surely be the duty of the "professional" to withdraw support from the client that has caused the conflict, rather than ditch the client at the very time it needs the "professional" most, and rather than taking action on the basis of the professional's

own self-interest, which so often happens.
UB's request is a reasonable one and RBS should agree to it, but with the proviso that, if UB makes a hostile bid for another RBS customer, UB will then have to find another banker.

Your report says that UB's chairman, Sir Hector Laing, wants RBS to support neither side in that case - but that is an unreasonable request that is tantamount to interference in RBS's relationship with its other customers.

Yours truly,
JOHN V.C. BUTCHER,
Chester Heights,
18 Bramble Rise,
Cobham, Surrey,
November 29.

Using interest rates to curb inflation

From Mr J. Hutton
Sir, Raising interest rates is supposed to bring the rate of inflation down. Yet according to Messrs Thomas and Saunders in their Gilt-Edged article (November 28), over three quarters of personal borrowing is in housing. For many such people interest charges are now adjusted annually. Next year the debt service ratio will climb to over 10 per cent. However, for the one and a half million new home buyers larger than average debts could become an onerous burden.

On the other hand, higher interest payments immediately benefit the many millions more who have money on deposit with the building soci-

eties and banks. Many of these creditors are of the older generation, have paid off their house debts and have a taste for imported goods and winter breaks abroad.

Many are also receiving or are looking forward to receiving indexed pensions and payouts from insurance policies.

In these circumstances it is surprising that the use of interest rates, on their own, against inflation is proving to be such a blunt instrument.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HUTTON,
Aberlour,
25 Lambridge Wood Road,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxon,
November 28.

Lloyd's policy

From Mr Robert Banks MP
Sir, I have been a member of Lloyd's for some years now, insuring myself with a "stop loss" policy.

My managing agent has recently written to me to say that he cannot guarantee that a policy will be available next year.

It should be a matter of great concern to "names" that Lloyd's have breached their age-old reputation for placing insurance for anything asked by, and more especially for exposure to unlimited liability. Where else can we insure against losses if Lloyd's won't? Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BANKS,
House of Commons,
November 27.

Ethics in question

From J. D. G. Berry
Sir, Following the acquisition of estate agencies by a number of financial institutions, including banks and insurance companies, I would respectfully ask the use of your columns to inquire whether banking and insurance ethics will be applied by such estate agencies to their business.

Whether we should expect estate agency ethics to be applied by banks and insurance companies to their business.
Yours faithfully,
J.D.G. BERRY,
7 South Road,
Grassendale Park,
Liverpool,
November 30.

No room at the top of Rover for both Day and Simpson

From Mr Noel Falconer
Sir, George Simpson, whom The Engineer recognizes as "an extremely energetic man" with "a taste for running his own show," is to become managing director of Rover Group on January 1.

When the old BL became part of British Aerospace, only this autumn, Graham Day undertook to remain as chairman, and Professor Smith included this in the proposals

put to both sets of shareholders and to the High Court, for a CA 425 reconstruction. It seems implicit that this office should remain as heretofore, that is, executive and highly active; further, with the BAE board exercising the overseeing role, there is no place for any other type of chairman - there is, in fact, no room at the top of Rover for both Mr Day and Mr Simpson.

Mr Day cannot in honour

The image of Britain abroad

From Miss Angela Simpson
Sir, Could I make a plea through your pages for greater courtesy and consideration from British firms who export their products.

I help out in a small company here in Greece, which imports a very wide range of products from many countries, notably the UK. I am appalled by the frequency with which I am asked to explain the behaviour of UK companies both large and small. This behaviour ranges from simply not answering letters, through letters which are terse to the point of rudeness, to deliberate disregard of instructions on procedures for importing into this country.

There still exists among the older companies here a feeling that an Englishman's word is his bond but this belief is fast being eroded by the lack of understanding shown by so many people.

The regulations governing imports here are very different from those in many EEC countries with a result that explicit instructions on procedure are always sent to new suppliers. These are rarely followed and often misinterpreted. Is it too much to ask that export managers should query instructions that they do not understand bearing in mind that the company involved is dealing in a foreign language?

Similarly time and again companies demand payment or implement surcharges for late payment long before the goods have even arrived and there is a chance to pay at all. The only legal commitment to payment in advance that can be made is by letter of credit.

All other forms of overseas payment require documentary evidence that goods have been ordered and dispatched and sometimes received before payment can be made. Brochures and catalogues arrive 14 days of shipment or else... a total impossibility.

I am basically proud to be British but all too frequently I am made very ashamed by people far removed from the football hooligans, who create havoc everywhere, who are the only ones apparently to hit the headlines for the damage done to "Our Image Abroad."

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA SIMPSON,
Mimozas 32A, Ekali 14565,
Athens, Greece,
November 16.

A strong, mid-day performance by Wall Street restored some equilibrium to weak share prices in London yesterday.

Depressed dealers marked prices lower on the news of the 2 per cent month-on-month rise in retail sales, fearing that inflationary pressures within the economy had not diminished.

Thereafter, prices continued to drift lower on modest selling and on an almost total lack of investment support as dealers sat on their hands awaiting the 2.30 pm market debut of British Steel.

At one stage, the FT-SE 100 share index stood nearly 18 points lower - and below the psychologically-important 1,750 level - with sentiment additionally depressed by revised reports of further cutbacks within the financial community.

Confirmation from Mr Randall Goldsmith, an equity strategist at James Capel, the broker, that Capel's analysts had downgraded their earnings estimates for several British dollar-earners also added to the gloom.

However, just when dealers were beginning to bemoan the disappointing start to dealings in British Steel - the shares opened at a 3p premium against forecasts of 6p or 7p - their attention turned towards Wall Street as the Dow Jones industrial average reflected relief that the key US Federal Reserve rate had not been increased by showing a gain at mid-day of more than 30 points.

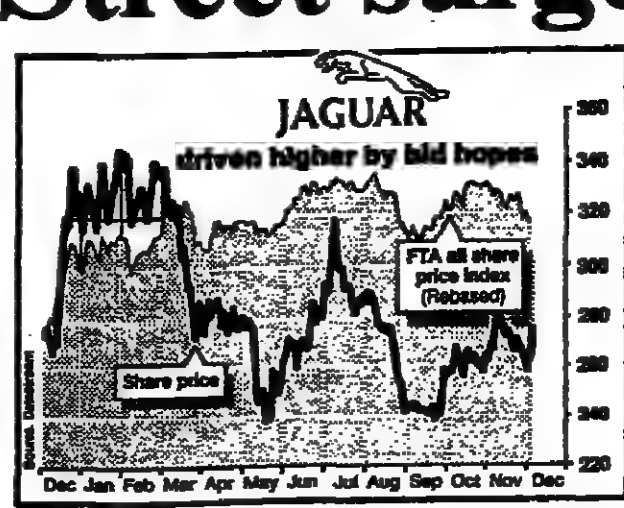
Quick to seize on any sort of bullish news, relieved market-makers immediately marked prices higher and the FT-SE 100 share index closed only 3.4 points down at 1,761.6.

The number of shares traded on Sany reached 645.4 million with the British Steel partly-paid shares - which closed with a 24p premium at 624p accounting for 261 million. The narrower FT 30 share index finished 0.7 of a point lower at 1,439.0.

Gilt reflected favourable currency influences and closed with gains of 4 1/2p. The shares of Channel Express, a flower distribution and parcels delivery group, staged an impressive debut on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Placed at 70p by McCaugham Dycous Capel-Cure, the broker, they opened at 72p and improved steadily to touch 78p before closing at 77p, a premium of 7p.

But all eyes were on Jaguar,



the luxury car manufacturer, as the shares swiftly accelerated to 280p in early dealings on speculation that a European group will soon take a significant stake in the beleaguered company before restrictions on a takeover are removed when the Government's golden share goes at the end of 1990.

Sporadic profit-taking prompted a fall from the day's peak, but the shares still closed 13p higher at 275p following a turnover of more than 4 million.

Whispers in the market went as far as suggesting that Volkswagen Audi, the West German car manufacturer, will attempt to acquire a 14.9 per cent holding in Jaguar today via a dawn raid. The West Germans are said to be particularly keen to get into the driving seat at Jaguar before the European trade barriers disappear in 1992.

There was also talk that Vickers, which owns Rolls-Royce motors, is keen on joining forces with Deimler Benz, the owner of Mercedes, to launch a joint mid on Jaguar, while the names of

STOCK MARKET

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There was also talk that Vickers, which owns Rolls-Royce motors, is keen on joining forces with Deimler Benz, the owner of Mercedes, to launch a joint mid on Jaguar, while the names of

Wall Street

Ford and General Motors were again being mentioned.

Both classes of Hamamerson Property Investment made progress, the ordinary rising 9p to 936p, after 938p, while the "A" gained 12p to 899p, on talk that a counter-bid to the £1.5 billion hostile bid from Rodamco, the Dutch property group, is close.

Dealers were claiming that Hong Kong Land is about to enter the fray, while the names of MEPC and Standard Life Assurance (Hamamerson's largest shareholder with 21 per cent of the "A" shares) were also being touted as possible bidders.

Rodamco posted its formal offer document to Hamamerson shareholders yesterday.

Property analysts still think that it will take an offer well above £10 a share to win control of Hamamerson. Chase Manhattan Securities, the broker, has said that the group's assets are worth at least £11 a share.

The ordinary and "A" ordinary shares of Paterson, Zacheus, the toiletry and detergent group which makes Imperial Leather soap, dropped 5p apiece to 310p on news of the profits warning.

The company said that because of a 14 per cent depreciation in the Nigerian naira, its pre-tax profits for the

Wall Street

half-year to November 30 will be lower than last year.

Storehouse, Sir Terence Conran's BHS, Habitat-Mothecore, Heal's and Richards retailing empire, leapt to 210p initially following reports that Mr Asher Edelman, the Wall Street corporate raider, had built up a near 5 per cent stake during the past couple of weeks.

The shares later retreated on profit-taking to close 5p down at 197p as a spokesman for Storehouse informed the market that it is investigating the identity of shareholders who had recently bought shares, but he could not confirm whether Mr Edelman was among them. By the close, about 6 million had changed hands.

Lombard, Mr Tiny Rowland's international trading group - which was effectively put "into play" by Mr Edelman's exploits this year when he bought a 4.7 per cent holding and then sold it to Mr Alan Bond, the Australian businessman - dropped 9p to 371p, after 367p.

Speculators have grown tired of waiting for the talk of bid from Mr Bond to materialize and they decided to liquidate their positions, taking into consideration the current depressed market conditions.

Geover, the operator of the Cornish tin mine which resumed operations in February, touched 75p before closing unaltered at 73p following the dual announcement that Sir James House Nominees had acquired a 15 per cent stake in the company at 70p a share and that Langtry International had bought a 6.6 per cent holding at the same price.

Geoffrey Foster

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol	100	Vol	100	Vol	100	Vol	100
ADT	1,738	CU	1,154	Lago	330	Seaboard	425
Albany	1,738	Corn Gold	124	LGM	430	Sears	613
Alcoa	1,738	Conoco	724	Lloyds	3,234	Shaw & M	121
Alcoa	1,738	Courtside	1,851	Lloyds	3,234	Shaw & M	121
Alcoa	1,738	Courtside	1,851	Lloyds	3,234	Shaw & M	121
Alcoa	1,738	Courtside	1,851	Lloyds	3,234	Shaw & M	121
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Alcoa	1,738	Courtside	1,851	Lloyds	3,234	Shaw & M	121
Alcoa	1,738	Courtside	1,851	Lloyds	3,234	Shaw & M	121
Alcoa	1,738	Courtside	1,851	Lloyds	3,234	Shaw & M	121

WALL STREET

Dow edges ahead in early deals

New York (Reuters) — Prices were steady on higher ground in early trading yesterday as the market recovered from Friday's 10-point decline after a surprisingly strong employment report. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 7 points to 2,099.28. Traders said that investors were encouraged by the market's resilience despite the bearish news.

Rising shares outnumbered falls by about five to four. Mr Victor Pugliese, the head trader at Nomura Securities, said the stock swaps being offered by Sara Lee, Pfizer and

WALL STREET

	Dec 2	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 1	
AAAI Co	91 1/2	82 1/2	Fedders	11	10 1/2	Pennell	72
AAAI	91 1/2	82 1/2	Fedders	11	10 1/2	Pennell	72
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RECORD INTERIM RESULTS			
Further substantial growth in the half year to 2nd October 1988			
	1988	1987	Increase
£m	£m	£m	
TURNOVER	129.8	82.4	58%
OPERATING PROFITS	15.4	10.2	51%
PRE-TAX PROFITS	15.4	9.0	71%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	17.2p	12.4p	39%
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	3.5p	2.5p	40%

Copies of the Interim Statement are available from the Secretary at the Company's Registered Office at 30 St John's Road, Woking, Surrey GU24 1SA

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TECHNOLOGY

Compact disc makes a new noise in Europe

Matthew May looks at a new Japanese development in the battle for CD sales and the fight against home recording

When compact discs were introduced, they seemed a heaven-sent opportunity for the music industry to increase sales — the improved quality of CDs could not be easily reproduced by home taping, which the music industry claimed was eroding sales.

However, the development of digital audio tape and the promise of erasable compact discs started to threaten that dream. These products will allow customers to make high-quality, digital copies of compact discs in the same way that audio cassette tape has been used to copy vinyl albums or prerecorded cassettes.

Use of digital audio tape is hindered by high prices and disagreement in the industry about how to stop pirating, while the quest for cheap and erasable compact discs, which would allow consumers to record high-quality music as well as play them back, still looks at least a couple of years away. On Thursday the issue

will be muddled further in Europe when the Japanese company, Taiyo Yuden, will give details of its "recordable" compact discs which will play back on conventional CD players.

The words have been carefully chosen — its product is not an erasable CD but, in the jargon of the computer industry, a WORM (write once, read many). It means customers will be able to record music or computer information on to a compact disc once but, having done so, will be unable to erase it.

Such products, along with reusable optical discs, are already available for computer applications but are seen as too expensive for domestic use.

However, at a low enough price, the idea should prove popular with music lovers. The ability to reuse tapes or discs is not considered so important because audio cassettes in the home are primarily used for taping music and, once recorded, are rarely wiped and used again.

The discs — expected to cost about £5 — are covered with a



Compact discs that can record as well as play back may be a boon for customers, but the music industry is unlikely to welcome them

special coating to guide the laser as it records. The recording units are promised to be on sale by next summer.

Taiyo Yuden is well aware that it is presenting yet another technology for the music industry to worry about — especially if, as has been suggested in Japan, manufacturers produce twin-deck play-

ers with both a recording unit and a separate player, allowing copies to be made of pre-recorded compact discs.

It says the products are intended for the professional market and will not be available to home users until the question of copyright protection is resolved. The distinction is likely to be one largely

of price with players initially expected to cost anything between £500 and £1,000.

Earlier this year, the American electronics company, Tandy, announced a cheap method of producing erasable compact discs which could be available within two years, although analysts were sceptical.

Fujitsu pays more millions to IBM

Fujitsu of Japan must pay at least \$237 million (£128 million) more to IBM to settle a six-year-old dispute over its copying of software necessary to build computers compatible with IBM's most powerful machines, two independent arbitrators ruled last Tuesday.

Fujitsu has been making payments for some time and the sum represents the amount still to be paid on a total settlement that arbitrators valued at \$833 million (about £450 million).

The settlement broke no new ground, but legal experts said it would influence the outcome of similar conflicts over "intellectual property" such as software.

The two companies had agreed in 1983 that Fujitsu would pay IBM for a licence to produce the software. But the agreement collapsed when the companies could not agree on specific terms. IBM called for arbitration under a clause in the original accord. A year ago, the arbitrators disclosed the broad shape of a settlement without specifying dollar amounts, which were announced for the first time last Tuesday.

In return for the payments, IBM must give Fujitsu "reasonable opportunity" to develop IBM-compatible computers and permit it to compete in the £10 billion mainframe computer market.

Both companies issued statements

saying they were pleased with the ruling, and financial analysts were divided as to whether the outcome was a victory for either side.

The resolution determines the extent to which Fujitsu can use IBM programming material and sets guidelines on how the data can be used. It also establishes a mechanism for resolving future conflicts. Under the agreement, Fujitsu will receive "interface information" that will be an aid to its programmers.

John Jones, one of the two arbitrators, said: "It is rather like giving the specifications for all the holes and plugs on the back of a stereo amplifier so that you can put compatible stereo components together." The programs covered by the agreement are essential to the operation of Fujitsu's IBM compatible mainframe computers and thus to the Japanese company's ability to remain a leading presence in the computer industry.

The dispute began in October 1982, when IBM confronted Fujitsu with allegations that Fujitsu operating system programs and manuals violated IBM's intellectual property rights. The dispute was clouded by the fact that IBM did not copyright its operating system programs before 1978 and later copyright law left many of the issues covered by the dispute vague.

A European ride on Nasa's Titan trip

By Pearce Wright

The most ambitious scientific project for exploring the planets is to be undertaken by the European Space Agency under the title of the Cassini Titan mission. From an investigation of the distant planets, the scientists hope to discover the secrets of earth's primitive atmosphere of aeons ago.

Proposals were adopted last week at a special planning meeting, at which the venture was chosen to fill the final slot in the agency's Horizon 2000 programme.

The programme covers all the new scientific spacecraft and orbiting telescopes to be built and launched over the next 20 years for the agency's 13 member countries. The mission will be in collaboration with the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

First goal is to explore the atmosphere of Saturn's moon, Titan, which is the largest moon in the solar system and to land a scientific package on the moon. Its nitrogen-rich atmosphere could contain a variety of pre-biotic molecules, providing a possible model for the origins of life on earth. In addition to its rings, Saturn has a family of satellites.

Christian Huygens, a Dutch astronomer, discovered the first Saturnian satellite at the same time as

he discovered the rings in 1656. Two centuries later, the satellite was named Titan.

Titan, being farthest from the sun and therefore colder than Jupiter's satellites, is better able to hold the molecules of gas rendered sluggish by cold, which is why the atmosphere of Titan is the key to the excitement that surrounds the new mission: it is composed primarily of nitrogen and methane.

These bizarre characteristics are not the main reason to study Titan with an atmospheric probe: it is the prospect of being able to investigate the complexities of the processes occurring in this natural laboratory, processes that may well throw new light on the early history of our planet's early atmosphere.

Nasa has scheduled Cassini for launch in April 1996. It will arrive in the Saturn system in October 2002. En route to Saturn, it will fly by the Asteroid 66 Main in 1997 and Jupiter in late 1999. The most important event will take place upon arrival of the Cassini mission to Saturn. It will be the targeting and release of the Huygens probe into Titan's atmosphere. A large conical decelerator will slow the probe down to reach subsonic speed at an altitude of 180 kms.

PERSPECTIVE

Remember to call in your legal experts

Companies, notably those dealing in financial services, have invested six-figure sums in the development of tailor-made software programs designed to give them a competitive edge, only to discover that their "secret weapon" can be openly purchased by arch-rivals, simply because they have not made legal provisions to protect what they believe they own.

Last month, Royal Assent was given to the new Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988, replacing the Copyright Act of 1956 and the Copyright (Computer Software) Amendment Act 1985. However, it will do little or nothing to save the company which fails to protect its ownership of the valuable software developed within its own organization.

Work carried out by an employee, unless the employer provides otherwise, is the property of the employer. The problem for most companies arises when they engage consultants who may then, in turn, sub-contract or assign software development work to yet another party. Control and confidentiality then become diluted if legal measures have not been taken to protect the company's ownership rights.

One company, for example, recently embarked on a path of systems development and called in outside consultants who, in turn, recruited additional freelance expertise and a series of exciting software programs was created.

"Who owns the programs?" I asked the first meeting of company executives and consultants called to address the knotty problem of ownership. Every hand in the room went up.

The financial director — who had originally conceived the software ideas — began work with fellow employees to create the software programs. Although they were not aware of how and why, the old, and now the new, Acts gave the company the rights to the program. Common law required them to keep their innovative efforts secret.

When the workload grew, the company booked the services of two independent self-employed consultants. Both were experts in their field.

One had a letter of appoint-



By taking simple legal steps your company will avoid expensive mistakes

Lloyd Evans
Partner, Barwin Leighton

contact's confidentiality clause.

While the company would have a non-exclusive licence to use the contributions of the outside consultants, it soon became apparent that not one party could alone license — or even use — the program without the permission of the others.

The situation was exacerbated by the fact that the company had received two lucrative offers from non-competitors wanting to license the basic system.

A "happy" solution — they all thankfully agreed — would be for each of the copyright owners to assign his or her legal and beneficial interests in the programme to the other parties and to themselves to hold in common. The company would act as licensing agent for all owners of the entire legal interest in the copyright, thus satisfying the third party licensees. Each owner agreed to give consent to the licences. The revenues would be divided in agreed shares.

The company had retrieved the situation in part, but still ended up having to share the spoils of its software victory with at least three other parties — hardly an equitable arrangement when you bear in mind that it had funded the entire project.

The new Act will not protect a company from its mistakes — to avoid falling into the trap of having to share software spoils, ensure that consultants assign copyright to the company in writing and are covered by confidentiality provisions, and that any other parties engaged by consultants have the same agreement as the consultants.

Where the consultants or others will not agree to do this, you should use the solution of common copyright ownership — but at the outset. Remember also to ensure that company employees have confidentiality restrictions written into their contracts.

By taking these simple legal steps your company will ensure that it avoids a very expensive mistake — and retains the competitive edge that it sought in the first place.

● The author is a partner in Barwin Leighton, a City law firm.

Learn to love your EEC

The EEC last week issued new rules, to take effect from April 1, to give companies legal protection in licensing agreements. They will let companies conclude possibly restrictive so-called "know-how" agreements and exempt these from EEC anti-trust rules under certain conditions.

The aim is to help companies develop new products rapidly in conditions without the threat of legal action.

The commission said know-how agreements account for about two-thirds of

technology-transfer agreements in the 12-nation trade block and cover products and manufacturing processes not protected by patents or trademarks.

Under the rules, technical knowledge contained in a know-how accord must be confidential and the accord must have substantial technological value. Once these criteria are met, the new rules will permit a long list of otherwise anti-competitive practices such as territorial protection and exclusive use of the licensor's trade mark.

Too costly to tap into?

The world of huge computerized databases available via a personal computer and a telephone line comes to London today, reports Richard Sarson



Wilson: under-used services

keyword, but by the shape of the molecule.

But businessmen do not use these services enough according to Professor Tom Wilson, of the department of information studies at Sheffield University.

Outside the financial community, who depend for their livelihood on information on their screens, other businessmen often know only about credit ratings, he argues, but ignore online marketing data which should be of more importance to them — the changing shape of world markets — and of their own customers.

Professor Wilson also regrets that, in big companies, keyboard-shy managers do not interrogate the screens themselves, but rely on trained librarians and researchers to navigate their way through the databases.

He blames today's crude menu systems, which are still not friendly enough for them. His own university is trying to devise more effective interactive learning styles, which are geared to the different ways in which people learn these new skills.

One new kind of database is called hypertext or hypermedia, which, by getting rid of the Boolean logic of most

searches is, according to Professor Wilson, more intuitively graspable, and more in tune with human behaviour than most databases.

As well as easing the search for information, Hypercard, the hypertext system now standard with the Apple Macintosh, allows an untutored user to build his own databases.

These can incorporate graphics as well as text, unlike conventional systems. Hypermedia systems are, however, heavy on machine resources, and are still not quite as easy as they are said to be.

Professor Wilson thinks that the older techniques are more suitable for large and complex databases.

Before online searching becomes general, it must become cheaper as well as easier. Professor Wilson sees the up-front subscriptions charged by most database service companies as being a major barrier to the spread of online enquiry.

Only the rich can afford it. He looks with envy at France, where the Teletel services have a low flat rate charge, and the Minitels, the terminals to access the information, are

given away by Telecom France.

The European Space Agency's Information Retrieval Service has thrown down the gauntlet by announcing that next year, they will stop charging for the time spent searching for the information, but instead charge for the information extracted.

This is a revolutionary suggestion. It will particularly help the casual inquirer who has not mastered the slick ways of reaching the information, and fumbles expensively — when there is a time-based charge — around the menu.

Professor Wilson finds that in the USA, ordinary citizens as well as companies and academics, can use services such as The Source, which have very low rates outside working hours.

Other technical developments will hopefully make online searching both cheaper and more convenient.

CD-ROM, the data version of the compact disc, linked to a standard PC, puts a vast amount of storage — all 12 volumes of the Oxford English Dictionary on two CDs — on a searcher's desk-top, so that he does not have to dial up an information provider to get information.

The snag with CD-ROM at the moment is that information cannot be updated. This will change, and Professor Wilson is encouraged that Steve Jobs' Next computer is to use a new kind of optical disc, to which one will be able to write as well as read, as the machine's basic storage medium.

● The 12th International Online Information Meeting, organized by Learned Information takes place from today until Thursday at Olympia 2, London

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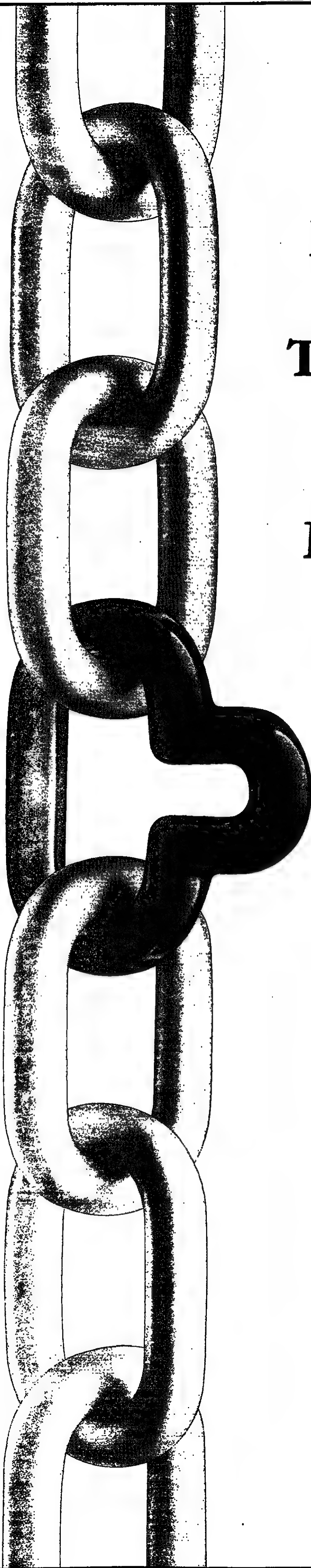
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TECHNOLOGY

Women have the answer

Few women work in computing, Leslie Tilley writes, yet the industry is going through a 'skills crisis' and needs 30,000 more skilled people



Pamela Morton, second right, with computing science undergraduates at Thames Polytechnic

Of the 300,000 working on computing, only 20 per cent or 60,000 are estimated to be women, although they represent about half the UK's working population. "The thing that is holding women back is their unwillingness to apply for jobs in computing. For example, if we advertise for sales positions, most of the internal applicants are women but hardly any external candidates are women," said Barry Seward-Thompson, of Digital Equipment, which has a staff of 8,000.

Carol Beech, of the British Computer Society, agreed. "A lot of companies say women don't apply for jobs in information technology and this is absolutely true."

They both say this is reflected in the number of women entering computing courses in higher education; currently 10 per cent of computing undergraduates are women, according to Women Into Computing (WIC), an organization of higher education institutions which aims to remedy the situation. This compares poorly with other professional organizations. For example, about 50 per cent of lawyers and doctors are women.

WIC held its first national conference at the University of Lancaster in July. In the introduction to the conference it pointed out that "by

failing to attract women, the computer industry is losing out on valuable talent and by failing to enter computing courses, women are losing out on interesting, well-paid jobs which remain unfilled".

Pamela Morton, computing lecturer at Thames Polytechnic, said she had been able to reverse the trend. Twenty-five per cent of students on her courses are women. She said she had tailored the courses to attract women. She thinks, though, that companies can do a lot more, because

Information Technology scheme, launched by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) to test whether a campaign to address the low number of women in computing "is likely to interest a substantial number of major users and suppliers of IT goods and services". The answer is "Yes", but the next step is still being debated.

However, the future of the project is in doubt. The CBI's Information Technology Skills Agency, which has been co-ordinating the scheme, is due to be disbanded at the end of this year.

JOBS CRISIS

many women cannot afford to study, or are not encouraged financially by their family to do so. "If only companies would start awarding bursaries to women, specifically to get girls more motivated. There are no bursaries that are specific to girls."

Ms Morton said advertising bursaries for women at schools would also give computing a higher profile. They were not "pushing the fact to girls that computing is an attractive industry". Her advice is: "Send out your most successful and attractive women to talk to schoolgirls. It isn't what you're doing, but how you present what you're doing."

Both Ms Beech and Ms Morton are involved with the Women into

The plan now is to target schools, industry and higher education with an awareness campaign.

Women already working in computing believe they are discriminated against. A woman who has been a programmer/analyst for eight years said: "I have a strong feeling that employers look more kindly on a male applicant. They seem to look for excuses to say 'no' to women in interviews."

Gordon Ewan of the Computing Services Association agrees: "I think any woman holding a job has to be better qualified than her male counterpart. There is still residual sexual stereotyping. Managers who are mainly men, and do the recruiting,

don't want to see the figure go beyond that mark as they feel vulnerable," he added. But management was "slightly more enlightened now".

According to Dr Seward-Thompson: "Managers are often more than a little conservative in their approach to recruitment. I believe that this is only the tip of the iceberg and that a significant dent could be made in the problem if managers were prepared to use some imagination and take a few more risks."

Mary Jennings, computer consultant at London-based Microsystem, a computing collective which produces a quarterly newsletter for women in computing, thinks the number of women in management is probably no more than 2 per cent. Computing had been around for 30 years and there should be more women in senior positions by now. "The computer industry is not the non-sexist industry one is led to believe." Computing was a very attractive industry because of the high salary and job mobility, she said, and offered a suggestion for industry if it was serious about attracting women.

"Just look at the job advertisements — 'Come and join the team' — it's like a football game; they're not likely to attract women. They've got to think again. I bet in 10 years' time the adverts will be completely changed because they will want women."

The latest Lotus spreadsheet may be worth the wait

Lotus 1-2-3, the financial spreadsheet, is the most popular software application for personal computers and a crucial tool for many businesses.

It has been years since the current version, the 2.0, was introduced and a delay in delivering the long-promised new 3.0 version has produced great turmoil within the company.

Lotus officials demonstrated a working copy of the 3.0 at last month's Comdex, a large computer trade show in Las Vegas, mainly to reassure customers that the often-delayed project was still on track and, moreover, that the new version would be worth the wait.

The goal, a Lotus official said, was not simply faster performance and new features,

Frozen finance

but better productivity and improved efficiency in financial modelling.

Judging by the demonstrations, the new version will be attractive to people already using Lotus. Checks with

some large corporate customers at Comdex suggested that most companies were willing to wait to see what Lotus has to offer, despite aggressive attempts by rival spreadsheet makers to seduce the companies into switching products.

Some of those rivals make unquestionably superior prod-

ucts, including Microsoft's Excel and Borland's Quattro. However, Lotus seems unruffled and boasts that its new version will match — and exceed — the features of these upstarts, including the ability to link several worksheets within a single file, and provide an easier-to-use command structure.

But it will require a significant development in computer hardware. One can expect it to demand at least a 286 processor, a hard disc and at least one, or even two, megabytes of RAM.

It also means the new version will probably cost more than the current one.

Version 3.0 is so late because it is being completely rewritten in the C language, growing to 300,000 lines of code from 100,000.

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Please write in confidence with details you consider relevant to:
Mr Alan Wood, Chairman, Digitus Ltd, 16-17 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1R 0AA.

Digitus

HORIZONS

In the first article of a two-part series, Ann Hills looks at high-level opportunities in Washington

Advice and consent in a top posting

A 11 o'clock on a November evening our ambassador in Washington, Sir Anthony Acland, was escorting Mrs Thatcher to Blair House, where she was Ronald Reagan's guest.

Lady Acland was speaking at a glittering dinner to raise money for the Washington Home, where she and other embassy wives are volunteers, comforting elderly residents in the long-term wing, and younger patients with Aids in the hospice.

The ambassador and his staff work late into the night. The Aclands live in the residence next door to the office in Massachusetts Avenue, which remains open around the clock - vital, particularly as London is five hours ahead.

The staff in Britain's premier embassy are 529, of which 325 are British-based. The 204 who are locally employed (some with British backgrounds) tend to occupy posts such as secretaries, commercial officers, security guards and drivers.

Of those posted from London, 113 are employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and 143 on defence matters, including civilians employed by the Ministry of Defence - reflecting the

importance in the embassy order of priorities of arms control, the East-West power balance and the future of Nato.

Then there is the consular department, headed by Fleur Fraser, commercial and economic sections - and, of course, the political (chancery) role of the Foreign Office. We are an annex of Whitehall, not a typical embassy, being double the size of embassies in Paris and Bonn," explains Francis Cornish, who heads the information section.

Francis, along with other senior staff, expects to stay about four years. More junior people have shorter terms - two to three years - but they share a common enjoyment: Washington is the ultimate seat of power.

Surprisingly, embassy staff are not hemmed in by bureaucracy. The impression they give is of being able to exercise initiative: "I expected the diplomatic service to be stuffy," says Richard Clarke, for whom comprehensive school was followed by the University of East Anglia. A friend said he should apply to the Foreign Office. Now, aged 33, he is a fast-track First Secretary on the political-military side, with a key role in arms control.

"A lot of my work deals with highly confidential material," he says. He finds that "people are approachable, but you have to be careful not to be used by one power function against another."

Mr Clarke is representing British interests in helping policymakers in the US - for instance, in relation to recently-proposed legislation which would have forced Europe to foot the bill for US troops in their countries. "I co-ordinated the lobbying campaign with other countries and spent a lot of time on Capitol Hill."

Eventually the campaigners won and the punitive measures were modified. "Millions of dollars were involved," he says.

Mr Clarke, who enjoys the social life and allows time to indulge his fascination in the American Civil War, is nearly half way through his four years.

He joined the Foreign Office in Chancery (the executive officer stream, in the western European department, from where he transferred to the faster-moving administrative stream).

Liz Webb, the Third Secretary in Chancery (the equivalent of Mr Clarke's former role in South America) joined the far eastern department of the Foreign Office



Three of the rising young stars of our US embassy: Liz Webb, left; Allison Crawford, above right; and Richard Pratt

documents and administrative details. She has a typewriter, not a computer, "for security reasons". The job is hectic, "keeping one step ahead of the chancery", which entails listening to news and being "in the middle of what is going on".

That sense of being in the midst of a buzzing political scene is helped by "the very open society here," according to Richard Pratt, aged 39, the economic counsellor, seconded from the Treasury to undertake this key role, which specializes in banking and taxation and involves lobbying.

For example, he helped in improving a Bill passed by Congress to keep track of money "laundered" by drug traffickers. It would have entailed foreign banks keeping records of US currency transactions worldwide. "We lobbied hard and fast with other countries," he says, and the legislation was modified.

The scale of salaries in the embassy are modest - those interviewed earned from about £10,000 to more than £20,000, plus free accommodation. In turn they work beyond office hours, appreciating that Washington is a way of life - a prize posting.

● **Inquiries about the 1989 exams can be obtained from the Personnel Policy Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London SW1 0ET (01-210 8121).**

● **Thursday: Going to the top in Washington**

Graduates showing enterprise

More graduates are entering permanent work sooner and in a wider range of occupations, including self-employment, says a major graduate employment survey published last week.

What do graduates do? compiled annually by the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services, found that in 1987, 56.4 per cent of university graduates, 61.5 per cent from polytechnics, and 63.6 per cent from colleges of higher education, had started work shortly after graduation. Unemployment levels are also down. These were, respectively, 5.9 per cent, 5.2 per cent and 8.3 per cent six months after graduation.

"The numbers of graduates becoming self-employed or setting up businesses straight from higher education have shown an interesting rise during the last year or so," says Alan Jones, senior careers adviser at Huddersfield Polytechnic. "The notion of the 'enterprise society' seems to be getting through to students." Students in school sixth forms and colleges of further education can draw considerable encouragement from the continuing trend towards earlier permanent work. The authors of the survey conclude that overall, career expectations and prospects are better with a degree than without one.

● **Copies of What Do Graduates Do? are available, priced £2.50 plus 75p postage, from Hobsons Publishing, Bateman Street, Cambridge, CB2 1LZ.**

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Closing date: 6th January 1989.

HAMPSHIRE
Hampshire County Council pursues a policy of equality of opportunity.

APPEALS AND PUBLICITY SECRETARY

The Distressed Gentlefolk's Aid Association, an old-established charity, with a turnover of £7 million a year, is seeking a person to take charge of all its appeals and publicity work. The post would be based in the Association's headquarters in Kensington, but a certain amount of travelling round the country would be involved.

We give financial support to almost 1,000 people, and run Residential Care and Nursing Homes for a further 370. The charity is by nature somewhat specialised and it does not undertake the kind of high-profile, national fund-raising appropriate to charities with a wider popular appeal.

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DGAA

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The position will demand accomplished interpersonal skills, the talent to apply them at the highest level, and oral and written skills to present and negotiate a case clearly, concisely and persuasively. Experience with higher education, management training, fundraising or marketing would be desirable.

The salary is negotiable but likely to be in the region of £25,000.

For further details contact Mrs Ann Bond in the President's office.



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Job Description and application form from District Personnel Department, North Manchester Health Authority, District Offices, Central Drive, Crayke, Manchester M14 6PL. Tel: 061-755 4897, Ext. 2591. Closing date for completed applications: 9 December 1988. Please quote ref: D60

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LEGAL

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Application form and details from Office Management Section, Chief Executive/Clerk's Department, PO Box 78, County Hall, PR1 8XJ, quoting Ref No 41/88/153.

Closing date: 16th December 1988.

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If you would like to discuss the post informally, please ring Robin Moseley (Ext 2124) or Charles Kerry (Ext 2118).

Further details and an application form may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, Chester City Council, Town Hall, Chester CH1 2AL. Tel: (0244) 284324 (Ext 2135). Closing date for applications is 16 December, 1988.



Council of the CITY OF CHESTER

LINCOLNSHIRE MAGISTRATES' COURTS COMMITTEE

A MAJOR MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OFFICER AND CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Salary up to £33,000 p.a. (pay award pending)

Management Consultants have carried out a major review of the Magistrates' Courts Service in Lincolnshire. To implement the review and lead the service through major change the committee wish to appoint a Chief Officer and Clerk to the Courts Committee.

The new post will be the head of the service and principal adviser to the committee. He or she shall be responsible for the management of the Courts Service, including finance, premises, personnel, the introduction of new technology, for servicing the committee itself and if required, the training of registrars and staff. The postholder will be supported by a small secretariat, the office likely to be based in the historic and pleasant Cathedral City of Lincoln in the middle of rural Lincolnshire.

The County's 15 Petty Sessions Divisions are proposed to be reorganised into nine divisions and three clerkships, each to be headed by a Justice's Clerk exercising his statutory responsibilities.

The Chief Officer will be a full-time free standing Chief Officer and Clerk with as broad a managerial and financial experience and knowledge of the workings of the Magistrates' Courts Service as possible. Accordingly, no particular professional background is prescribed. Outstanding Clerks to the Justices, general managers, lawyers, accountants and administrators capable of meeting this broad requirement and demonstrating ability to plan, direct and control an effective and efficient Courts Service are invited to apply.

In addition to the salary the following package is offered. Relocation expenses up to £8,250 in exceptional cases, a leased car with an employer's contribution up to £1,500, mortgage facilities, Group BUPA Scheme of substantially reduced subscriptions and a good occupational pension scheme. The committee will be interested in discussing with applicants non-traditional forms of contract.

The closing date for applications is 31st December 1988. Interviews will be held early in January.

The job description and further details are available from Mr. C. R. Houldsworth, County Offices, Newstead, Lincoln LN1 1YL. Tel: Lincoln (05322) 552222.

R. J. D. Proctor, Clerk to the Magistrates' Courts Committee.

LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION

SENIOR SOLICITOR (ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES)

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For job description and application form contact Head of Legal Services, County Offices, Macclesfield, Derbyshire, DE4 3AG, Tel: (0829) 580000 ext 7322.

Closing date: 21 December, 1988.

The Council's policy is that all people receive equal treatment regardless of their sex, marital status, sexual orientation, race, creed, colour, ethnic or national origin, or disability.

DERBYSHIRE
County Council
Supports Nuclear Free Zones

Continued from page 12

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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Tel (0533) 549922 Ext. 7099 or a recorded message service is available on (0533) 549848.

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The Closing Date for applications is 12th December, 1988 and interviews will be held in Bristol on 4th and 5th January, 1989.

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South Western Regional Health Authority



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THE JOB

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- * Town Centre redevelopment
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For an information package please contact the

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The formal advertisement inviting applications for the post will appear in February 1989. The purpose of the present advertisement is to inform possible applicants that the post is available in September 1989 and to invite those interested to write to the Medical Director at the Hospice and to discuss the responsibilities of the post of Medical Director. The informal period of contact will carry no commitment from doctors who visit us.

Please write to Dr John D. Sainsbury

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THE LAW

Correcting miscarriages of justice



The courts are not on the side of those wrongly convicted, Peter Ashman writes

Lord Devlin and Lord Scarman in *The Times* last week raised fundamental questions about the way our legal system deals with miscarriages of justice. The fate of the Guildford Four, serving life for the public house bombings, "has shattered our belief that there is no one in any English prison serving a sentence of more than a year who has not been found guilty by a jury which has heard substantially all the relevant evidence", they wrote. "Our constitutional law on which our freedoms depend has been disordered."

Earlier this year the distinguished Scottish Law Lord, Lord McCluskey, told the International Bar Association conference that "vast numbers of people are being punished for crimes they did not commit" and that there was "a lack in our systems of criminal justice of more effective means of remedying an injustice".

His comments may have surprised many people. After all,

there has been a system of criminal appeals in England and Wales since 1904, and in Scotland since 1926, the purpose of which is to remedy such injustice. What evidence is there that the appellate courts are failing in their task? In Scotland, the High Court of Justiciary, sitting as the appellate court in criminal matters, only produces a written judgment of appeals which raise some legal point of note. In England, although the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) produces a written judgment of every appeal, only those few involving points of law are published, unlike the civil judgments. Criminal judgments are only available to the court, although they can be purchased from the shorthand writers. As few miscarriages of justice involve points of law, it is

almost impossible in practice to determine whether the courts of appeal are doing their job properly. It is a herculean task to persuade the judges that the jury reached the wrong verdict in the absence of mistakes of law or unfairness on the part of the trial judge. Since the powers of the English Court of Appeal were reformed in 1966 to enable it to quash a conviction when it had, in the words of Lord Widgery in the leading case of *R v. Cooper*, a "lurking doubt" about the safety of the conviction, it is only possible to identify some six cases where the court has

actually used its powers on the grounds that the jury reached the wrong verdict on the evidence. In the past 22 years, the court has had to deal with almost 6,000 applications for leave to appeal against conviction each year. In Scotland, where the powers of the High Court were similarly enlarged in 1980, a similar reluctance to quash convictions is evident. Recognition of unjust imprisonment might appear to have fared better at the Home Office. In the years 1980-1987, the Home Secretary compensated 60 persons for wrongful imprisonment, at a cost

to the Exchequer of £963,000. But the Home Office, like the Scottish Office, will not even consider investigating complaints about the correctness of a conviction where it is alleged that the jury reached the wrong verdict on the evidence. The convicted person has to have fresh evidence convincing enough to prove innocence, almost beyond reasonable doubt. The all party law reform group Justice examines several hundred complaints of unjust imprisonment each year. Because of its slender resources, it only examines those where people are serv-

ing more than four years' imprisonment. It has to take account of the highly restrictive manner in which the Court of Appeal exercises its powers and the even greater reluctance of the Home and Scottish Offices to be persuaded that anything could have gone wrong at the trial or the appeal. Even with those severe restrictions, it is reasonably convinced that at least 10 people a year are wrongly imprisoned. Lord McCluskey proposed new international machinery to tackle injustice. But anyone who has brought proceedings under the European Convention on Human Rights will know just how hesitant international bodies are to make adverse findings of fact against a government. Moreover, there are no common international stan-

dards about evidence or proof. In the UK, for example, one single piece of evidence is normally sufficient to convict in England and Wales, but in Scotland there must generally be at least two pieces of evidence from independent sources. In England and Wales, if more than two jurors doubt the guilt of the accused, they cannot be convicted. In Scotland, up to seven jurors can doubt their guilt but they can still be convicted by the other eight jurors. The essential precondition to avoiding injustice in any criminal justice system is if those who operate it are prepared frankly to acknowledge that mistakes can and do occur and are willing to remedy them. Complacency is the enemy of justice and constant vigilance is needed on the part of the authorities, judges, lawyers and the media.

● The author is a barrister and has been legal officer of Justice for the past 10 years. The views expressed in this article are entirely personal.

House of Lords

Law Report December 6 1988

Court of Appeal

First 'for sale' board always lawful

Porter v Honey

Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Elwyn-Jones, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Griffiths and Lord Goff of Chieveley [Speeches December 1]

An estate agent who displayed a "for sale" board on a property continued to enjoy the deemed consent of the board granted by regulation 6(2) and Class III(a) in regulation 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations (SI 1984 No 421) notwithstanding the subsequent erection of a second board by another estate agent.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by the estate agent, Mr Anthony Harold Porter, from the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Bingham and Mr Justice Hutchison) (*The Times* April 7, 1988) 2 All ER 449, who had dismissed his appeal by case stated from Richmond Justices.

Regulation 6(2) of the 1984 Regulations provides that planning consent shall be deemed to be granted for the display of certain advertisements, including, in Class III(a) of regulation 4(1):

"Advertisements relating to the sale or letting of the land on which they are displayed; limited, in respect of each such sale or letting, to one advertisement consisting of a board . . ."

Mr Frederic Reynolds, QC and Mr Terence Bergin for Mr Porter; Mr David Lanning for the prosecutor; Mr Michael John Honey.

LORD GRIFFITHS said that Mr Porter, after receiving instructions to sell two properties in Richmond upon Thames, had displayed a "for

sale" board outside each property. His boards had been the first to be displayed.

Thereafter, the owners of the properties had each instructed a second agent, and those agents had erected their own boards on the properties without Mr Porter's knowledge or consent.

Mr Porter and the other agents had been charged with offences contrary to regulation 8 of the 1984 Regulations and section 109(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971. The other agents had pleaded guilty; Mr Porter had been found guilty.

The question for the House was whether on the true construction of the legislation an estate agent who lawfully placed a "for sale" board on a property should be held to have committed a criminal offence because another agent unlawfully and without the knowledge or consent of the first agent placed a second board on the same property.

Any layman would surely not hesitate to answer "No". Unfortunately, the legislation posed a more difficult question of construction for the lawyers. The difficulty was created by the fact that Class III limited the deemed consent in respect of each sale or letting to one advertisement.

The local authority therefore argued that, if there were two advertisements in respect of the same sale, there was no deemed consent in respect of either of them.

In his Lordship's view, the regulations only made sense and did justice if they were read as confining the deemed consent for the display of the first board despite the unlawful display of subsequent boards.

He would therefore, as a matter of necessary implication, read Class III(a) as if it contained the following italicised words:

"... limited, in respect of each such sale or letting, to one advertisement that being the first advertisement displayed when more than one is displayed consisting of a board . . ."

The local authority had submitted that such a construction would raise grave practical difficulties in enforcing the legislation because of the difficulty of proving which board had been erected first, but his Lordship could not believe that in the vast majority of cases it would not be possible to establish that by a simple inquiry from the property owner or from the estate agents themselves or from the records of the company erecting the boards.

Of course, it would be easier to bring every estate agent before the court and find them all guilty, but to accept such a construction would be to promote injustice in the interests of administrative convenience, and his Lordship could not believe that it had been the intention of the secretary of state to invite Parliament to

approve regulations providing for such a result.

As his Lordship read the explanatory note to the amended Class III(a) contained in the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (Amendment) No 2 Regulations (SI 1987 No 227), which came into force on October 28, 1988, the amendment had been introduced to scotch the argument advanced in the Divisional Court by Mr Porter to the effect that the regulations permitted each advertiser to have one board rather than limiting the permission to one board for each sale or letting.

It was now clear that the deemed consent was limited to one board at any one time. Nevertheless, his Lordship would read the amended Class III(a) as subject to a similar implication so that the first advertisement attracted the deemed consent and was not lost by the unlawful erection of subsequent boards.

LORD KEITH, LORD ELWYN-JONES, LORD BRANDON and LORD GOFF agreed.

Solicitors: Axelrods, Richmond; Mr G. S. McGowan, Twickenham.

Early start to term

Practice Note (Court of Appeal (Civil Division))

The Civil Division of the Court of Appeal would sit on January 10, 1989, in accordance with a practice note issued by Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, on November 29.

The MASTER OF THE

ROLLS said that having determined that sittings were necessary for the purpose of hearing appeals and applications on

Tuesday, January 10, 1989, in the exercise of the power conferred by Order 64, rule 2(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court and with the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor, his Lordship directed that the Civil Division of the Court of Appeal should sit on that date.

LORD JUSTICE TAYLOR said that the judge below concluded that the strengthening of the pillars had not been with the intention of averting imminent danger to health or safety but to cure a defect which otherwise prevented the appellant from making full use of the building to the extent for which it was designed.

He relied on the decision in *Pirelli General Cable Works Ltd v Oscar Faber and Partners*

Department of the Environment v Thomas Bates and Son Ltd

Before Lord Justice O'Connor, Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice Taylor

[Judgment November 24] Damages in negligence could not be recovered for the cost of remedial work to a building when such work was necessary only for the purpose of rendering the building fit to support its design load.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the Department of the Environment, under-lessee of Great Oaks House, Basildon, against a decision of Judge Smart, QC, as Official Referee, that it had no cause of action against Thomas Bates and Son Ltd, the builders of Great Oaks House, regarding expenditure on strengthening eight supporting pillars which had been constructed using low strength concrete.

The court did not consider the builders' cross-appeal by which they contended that the cause of action was in any event statute barred.

Mr John Laws for the department; Mr David Hunt, QC and Mr Terence Mowchenson for the builders.

LORD JUSTICE TAYLOR said that the judge below concluded that the strengthening of the pillars had not been with the intention of averting imminent danger to health or safety but to cure a defect which otherwise prevented the appellant from making full use of the building to the extent for which it was designed.

He relied on the decision in *Pirelli General Cable Works Ltd v Oscar Faber and Partners*

([1983] 2 AC 1) in rejecting the appellant's claim.

Mr Laws submitted the judge was wrong to regard the instant case as governed by *Pirelli*, a limitation case which was not specifically concerned with the problem of a present defect and merely anticipated damage.

He submitted that an occupier could recover against a negligent builder in tort the cost of remedial work undertaken in advance of any physical damage to the building in order to avert imminent risk of physical injury to persons. That proposition was, he said, supported by the dictum of Lord Justice Ralph Gibson in *London Congregational Union v Harris* ([1988] 1 All ER 15, 24) and by *Amey v Merton London Borough Council* ([1978] AC 728), among others.

Even assuming Mr Laws' proposition was right and supported by authority, the question remained as to whether, on the judge's findings, the appellant could succeed here.

The crucial question was whether the remedial works were "to avert imminent risk of physical injury to persons".

The judge found there had

been no danger. Danger would have arisen only if the loading in the lower block had increased towards the design load. Once warning was given there was no question of that happening. So, the remedial works were not to avert imminent danger; they were to enable the building to be used to the full extent of the design load.

Mr Laws said that was to avert imminent danger because (a) the word "imminent" should not be interpreted too restrictively as to time and (b) there would be danger if the building were to be used as it was intended or might be expected to be used.

As to (a) he submitted that "imminent" meant no more in this context than soon. The danger did not have to be immediate and he cited a passage from Lord Justice Lawton in *Ketteman v Hansel Properties Ltd* ([1984] 1 WLR 1274, 1290) in support.

However, in that case there was no doubt that damage was going to occur at some stage unless remedial underpinning was done. Here once the weakness was detected in the pillars and warning given, the danger

was eliminated. It was not going to occur immediately, soon or at all.

As to (b) the building could continue to be used as it had been, in safety, provided the load was not increased. The remedial works were done, therefore, not to avert otherwise inevitable danger but to restore the appellant the full capacity of the building for which they bargained by their under-lease.

To allow recovery in tort if defective building made remedial work necessary to avoid injury, but not if it was necessary only to render the building fit for its intended use, might seem a dismal distinction to an aggrieved occupier. But it was a necessary distinction if, as at present, the law declined to allow an action in tort equivalent to the enforcement in contract of a warranty of fitness.

On the facts, therefore, Mr Laws was unable to bring his claim within the proposition upon which he relied.

LORD JUSTICE NICHOLLS and LORD JUSTICE O'CONNOR delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Tolhurst & Fisher, Southend-on-Sea.

Changes in chambers procedure

Listing Statement (Queen's Bench Judge in Chambers)

Because some cases had been subject to unacceptable delay in getting a hearing date before a judge in chambers, changes in the listing procedure would be made starting from December 1, affecting hearings estimated to take more than 30 minutes.

Mr Justice Drake so stated in a listing statement issued in the

Queen's Bench Division on November 17.

HIS LORDSHIP said that at present those hearings were put on a list for special appointments about 60 per cent of which were appeals.

Appeals would be put on a separate list known as the Chambers Appeals List with efforts made to give at least seven days notice before appeals

were heard and would be put into *The Daily Cause List* on any day of the week, but particularly Fridays and might often be fast-tracked.

Summons would be dealt with by the present system but without appeals the time-lag for special appointments should be drastically reduced.

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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LEGAL & FINANCIAL

By Edward Fennell

A winning way with words

Wit and intelligence in the world of law and accountancy were the hallmarks of *The Times* Young Professionals' Competition 1988

Talent scouts from the leading legal and accountancy firms would have had a field day last week when the awards were presented to the winners of *The Times* Young Professionals' Competition. Not only were youth and beauty joined to wit and intelligence but the 12 finalists were all eminently employable. If the future of the professions depends on such as these we have no need to fret about it.

As Charles Wilson, editor of *The Times* and chairman of the judges, commented before announcing the results: "The *Times* regards itself as the house journal of both the accountancy and legal professions and it was therefore appropriate that we should initiate this competition at a time when the recruitment, education and training of young lawyers and accountants is attracting so much attention."

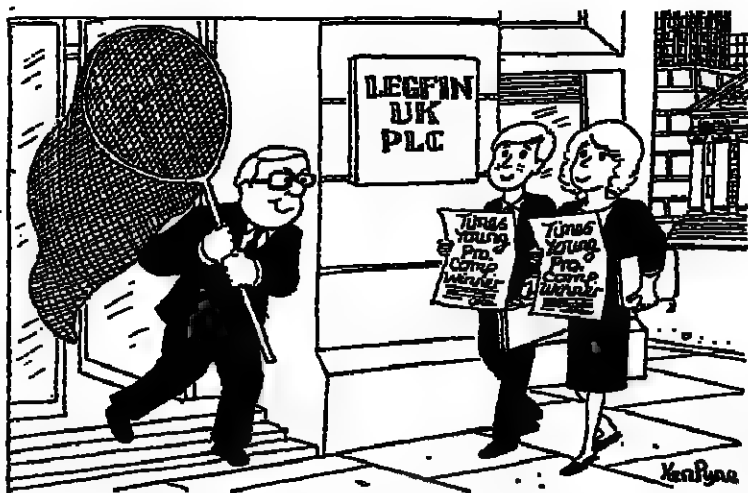
The competition was run in two categories — Legal and Financial. In the legal category, sponsored by the solicitors FISHBURN BOXER, candidates were invited to comment on whether "trial by media" can ever be justified. The judges — Mr Wilson, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, and

Clive Boxer, a senior partner of Fishburn Boxer — had a lengthy discussion at the House of Lords before selecting the winner — Clare Price, a 23-year-old post-graduate student at Cambridge University. In a rousing passage, which should perhaps be required reading for all journalists, she argued:

Investigative journalism provides an invaluable method of exposing wrongdoing and corruption — it is one system of checks and balances. Yet it can never be certain that the media have all the facts before them, that they have interpreted them correctly, that they have not been over-selective in their choice of material, and that they wish to present a balanced picture unclouded by their own political or social leanings. In many instances, the media are motivated by their own interests and do not adopt a neutral stance.

Ms Price's article ranged over "great media trials" of the last three decades. Drawing on evidence from the death of Stephen Ward after the Profumo scandal to the hunt for fugitive Nazis, she was able to conclude that if we were "to retain the integrity of our legal system, unrestricted coverage and comment can only be acceptable at the conclusion of the case."

Clive Boxer said that though he was impressed by the quality of the short-listed articles he was surprised by how much they favoured the influence of the press. He was also puzzled by the absence of any reference to the Barlow Clowes affair. "It just shows that young lawyers find the City and commer-



cial affairs rather daunting. But I would advise all of them to read the business pages in the newspapers as well as the law reports, because in the future that is where much of the best work is going to be."

Entants in the Financial category, sponsored by ARTHUR YOUNG, the accountants, were asked whether the hunger for short-term profits was destroying British industry. In this case the judges were Sir Hector Laing, chairman of United Biscuits, Michael Hoy, managing editor of *The Times*, and Peter Edwards, a senior partner at Arthur Young.

Each of the judges approached the question from a different angle but in the end they were swayed by the argument from 17-year-old Ben

Thompson of Dr Challoner's School at Amersham, Buckinghamshire, that companies are mistakenly choosing to give short-term profits a higher priority than long-term investment.

In researching his case, Mr Thompson showed plenty of enterprise. For example, he went direct to Richard Branson of Virgin to get his response after the company chief had said that his policy of long-term investment and its effect on share prices was a just reason for removing Virgin from the Stock Exchange. Mr Thompson wrote: "Investors understand that success can only be achieved by slow but steady growth and therefore expect a longer term return on their investment."

In reviewing the entries, Peter Edwards said that it was nice to see so many young people contribute to

an essay on the broader issue of accountancy and finance. It was certainly evident that many young people are apprehensive of the influence of short-term thinking on the British economy.

As Nick Pratt, a business studies student from Dorset, said: "There is worrying evidence that British innovators are being forced to work for foreign competitors because there is so little finance available for their long-term projects."

Not everyone accepted this view, and a barrister, Jonathan Peacock, was convinced that "the long-term view of profitability, growth and investment are back in fashion".

For my part, I am particularly grateful to one of the short-listed entrants, Sarah Ellis, who reminded me that it was Oscar Wilde who said: "In the old days men had the rack. Now they have the press."

And now, of course, the press has competitors — so congratulations to our winners who have triumphed over such an ordeal.

RESULTS: Legal category. Winner, Clare Price. Runner-up, Robert Foulston. Short-listed, Sarah Ellis, Rachel Johnson, John Bloom and John Odgers.

Financial category. Winner, Ben Thompson. Runner-up, Jonathan Mount. Short-listed, Jonathan Peacock, Nick Pratt, Fiaz Khan and Joanna Newman.

The two winners each received a cheque for £1,000 and an Apple Macintosh SE computer worth £2,200. The runners-up received cartoons by Ken Pyne.

BRIEFLY
Carry On Abroad

■ It was a case of "Carry On Up the Institute" a week ago as leading officials from the Chartered Institute of Management Accounts braved the political violence of Sri Lanka to join President Jayewardene at the opening of a new branch building in Colombo.

Cima has more than 600 members and 4,200 students in Sri Lanka, putting it in



position among the local accounting bodies. Indeed, the country is the jewel in Cima's overseas crown. As the Institute's president, Ronald Kent, above, says: "Against daunting odds, the Sri Lanka branch has become the first in the world to have erected a new building designed exclusively for Cima purposes."

The new branch HQ will help the Institute to consolidate its position by providing study, library, office and auditorium facilities. It is also a salutary thought that at a time when the mutual recognition of professional qualifications presents difficulties in Europe there are nations beyond the seas eager to get the benefits of a British professional body. Come back Empire, all is forgiven.

■ Continuing the theme on go-ahead accountants, I must mention the "Top Up" series from Chartered Training at the Institute of Chartered Accountants. This puts on audio cassette a number of expert briefings on matters of common professional interest. I need hardly say that the most recent "Top Up" is about That Year, but don't be put off. The tape has both the strength and weaknesses of a typical mid-evening Radio 4 programme. It's not quite in the John Cleese mould of training but well worth listening to on your in-car audio system the next time you get stuck in a traffic jam. Details: contact Maria Murphy, Member Services Directorate, at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, tel. 0906 668833.

Secrets

■ In Briefly (A man to keep your secrets, November 22), I may have inadvertently given the impression that Stuart Duncan of Stoneham Langton & Passmore did not keep confidential his firm's participation in Inace (the Industrial Members Advisory Committee on Ethics). In fact, Mr Duncan was asked by a director of Inace to speak to me. My apologies for any misunderstanding.

■ Legal Brief is on page 34

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A small man who found his name was worth \$1 million, a passport and Olympic gold

Uplift to Turkish delight

CHRIS HARRIS



Simon Barnes

He is the man who went for a pee and was never seen again. He is 4ft 10in and the strongest man pound for pound in the world. He is an international political figure, the only Olympic weightlifter bought for a transfer fee, and he has set world records under three different names. He is not the sort of man you run into every day.

The theft of a name is, in one way, the ultimate in oppression. Naim Suleymanoglu, a Bulgarian international weightlifter but an ethnic Turk — a Turkish speaker with a Turkish name — was ordered to change his name to Naom Shalamanov.

The Bulgarian government decided to outlaw its ethnic minorities in 1984. Language is one of the greatest forces for division and strife in history. The Bulgarians forbade the speaking of Turkish in all public places. Traditional Turkish trousers became illegal. Turkish names were forcibly Bulgarianized.

It is difficult for us Brits to understand all this — I mean, don't they read Orwell in Bulgaria? — but Shalamanov, nobody's fool, knew his potential worth as a defecting champion.

And so he escaped from a weightlifting competition in Australia, and is now as Turkish as a man could be, under the splendid name of Naim Suleymanoglu. He won his featherweight gold medal at the Olympics in Seoul, breaking the world record six times as he did so. At 9st 6oz he is quite phenomenal, pound-for-pound the best in the world.

He is also walking talking propaganda. He was in Britain briefly on Sunday, appearing on television and doing a spot of promotion at the Barbican Health and Fitness Centre, and then on to Washington, to meet President Reagan. The Great Man's publicity boys must already be crooning at the thought of the photographs it will make: Reagan riding tall in the saddle alongside Suleymanoglu, the 4ft 10in symbol of freedom from communist oppression.

Suleymanoglu takes it all as nothing less than his due. He has the gift that some small men have, of complete self-possession. He makes every one else feel awkward and freakish. The only other man I have met with such a knack is

Bill Shoemaker, the American jockey. He knows he is the best: everything else follows from there. Speaking through an interpreter, he said that his greatest achievements in life were winning his gold and moving to Turkey.

"I decided to escape in 1985, when they changed my name. That was the reason. There were other things — but it was the name most of all."

He had met exiled Turks and Bulgarians in Australia in 1985. "They warned me that they would change my name if I went back. But I didn't have the courage then." He was ready to go when he was in Melbourne in 1986 for the World Cup. Suleymanoglu — Shalamanov — won it, naturally.

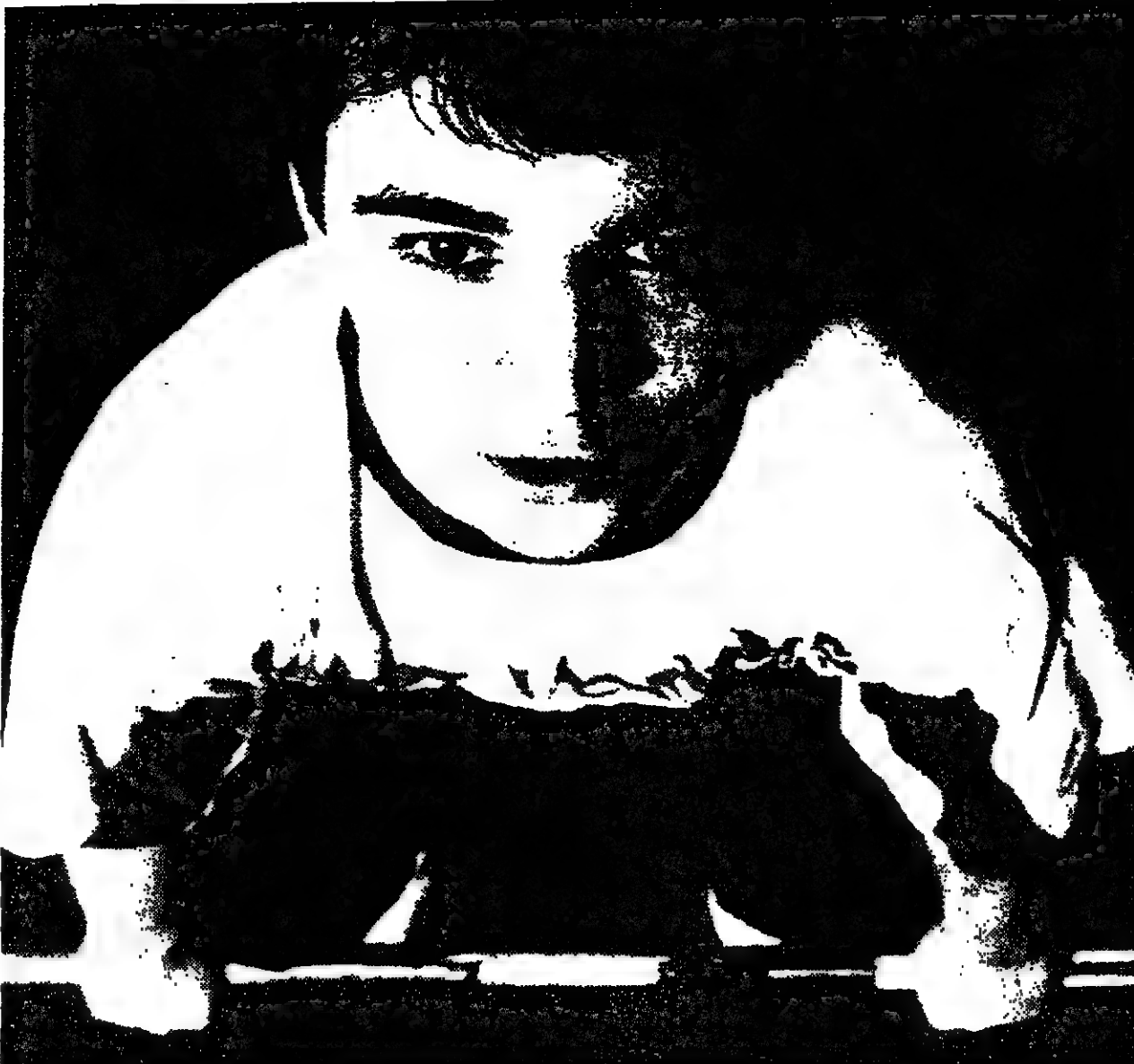
"I had found my friends again, and told them I wanted to escape. There was a banquet after the World Cup in a restaurant. I got up, pretending I was going to the loo, and just walked out into a car which my friends had waiting. I was not frightened at the time — I had taken the decision. I accepted it, just accepted the fact."

"The Bulgarians had no idea I planned to escape. I had been to many other places to compete, and had not escaped. There had not been an opportunity — but if I had known how easy it was, I would have done it earlier."

But Australia, without the pressures of big and powerful neighbours, was the perfect choice for escape, and is yet another illustration of Suleymanoglu's political nous. After lying low in a safe house while the storm broke, he went to the Turkish Embassy. The red carpet was unrolled. He was flown to London, and then from London to Turkey. He made the last leg of the journey in the Turkish Prime Minister's personal jet.

"The Turkish nation just embraced me. The Turkish Prime Minister treated me as his son. I was given endless opportunities." In short, Suleymanoglu became a national treasure. But they had to pay through the nose for him.

Suleymanoglu could not lift for Turkey in the Olympic Games until Bulgaria gave



Acceptable face: Suleymanoglu was warmly embraced by the Turks, whose entrepreneurs turned cartwheels of glee

him permission to change his allegiance. The Bulgarians agreed. The asking price for forgiveness was a million dollars.

A truly remarkable sportsman is worth a frightening amount. Sport, above all other fields of human endeavour, is uniquely entertaining, uniquely prestigious, uniquely capable of capturing public attention. As the acceptable public face of Turkey, this phenomenal man, with his freakish size, the glamour of the defector and a marvelously self-contained public presence, was worth a fortune.

Those who wished to promote anything Turkish — tourism, politics, exports — could only turn cartwheels of glee.

And Suleymanoglu himself

is fully aware of his own value. He used his victories coldly and deliberately to embarrass Bulgaria into releasing his family. "I had to wait three years. I was concerned for them — but not too much. Of course, the Bulgarians paid attention to them because they were my family — but I knew that because they were my family they could not do too much, because it would be known by the Press."

"After I won the European championship in Cardiff early this year, I said afterwards, that I hoped my family would soon be allowed to join me in Turkey. I knew that if the foreign Press reported this, the Bulgarians would be embarrassed. Every opportunity I found, I mentioned this."

And after the Olympics, in the Press conference, I said so again, and I know that affected the Bulgarians a lot."

So much so that they permitted his family to join him in October. Suleymanoglu: champion, and deliverer: not bad for a man of 22.

Oh, and he has 35 world records to his various names, as well as a flat given to him by the Turkish Government. He has played his hand like a master. "My situation is excellent. The Turkish people are very close and warm-hearted. I was at home there at once. I just had to give something in return. The atmosphere — I just warmed up immediately. I have friends from Bulgaria I miss, of course. New friends are silver,

but old friends are gold. I am studying — sports studies — and I am learning English. For the rest, time will show."

He has the world, and certainly Turkey at his feet, and Barcelona 1992 in his sights. He ducks all questions about his future outside sport — business? politics? — but he could do almost anything he wanted. A great sportsman, a truly exceptional champion, he is in a unique position of power.

The Turkish Government say he is worth far more than a million dollars. Well, so is everybody else under any form of oppression anywhere in the world. But you have to be a sportsman before they will pay the asking price.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Widnes to provide sternest of tests for Murphy's men

By Keith Macklin

The moment of truth in the John Player Special Trophy has arrived for Alex Murphy. The St Helens manager has piloted his side with difficulty through ties against York, Hull and Wakefield Trinity, matches which were not expected to provide stern tests for the Saints; yet he has been the first to admit that they were sneaky victories.

In two of them, against Hull and against Trinity last Sunday, St Helens played badly at the start, fell behind, and won only through strong finishing bursts. Murphy and his team will not get away with this against Widnes in the first semi-final, at Central Park on Saturday. Widnes are in tremendous form and would certainly not allow an 18-2 lead to slip away as Wakefield did. They are a side without an apparent weakness, brimming with confidence, and can come from behind against the best of opposition as they proved when trailing 6-0 to Warrington on Saturday.

Murphy said after the game on Sunday that he was tired of criticism about "the state of the club" and that critics would be eating their words when his side retain

the trophy they won against Leeds last season. If the Saints beat Widnes on Saturday, Murphy will certainly be entitled to generous apologies.

In the other semi-final, the winners of the Wigan v Hull Kingston Rovers replay will meet Bradford Northern at Headingley a week on Saturday. Northern are not the most spectacular side in the league, and they tend to rely on a hard-tackling heavy-weight pack to make progress, with the backs swooping in to pick up the half-chances.

However, since trophy semi-finals tend to be won by small margins and by strong-tackling sides, this may prove to be a virtue for Bradford. Their pack contains imposing names in Hobbs, Fairbank and the skilful and experienced Pinner, and neither Wigan nor Hull Kingston Rovers will underestimate their challenge.

Meanwhile, Shaun Edwards, Wigan's international half back, has had a most unlikely mishap. He has caught chicken-pox from his five-year-old brother.

JOHN PLAYER SPECIAL TROPHY SEMI-FINALS: St Helens v Widnes (Wigan, Sat); Hull Kingston Rovers v Wigan v Bradford Northern (Headingley, Dec 17).

ICE HOCKEY

Racers narrow the gap with two wins

By Norman de Mesquita

Although Durham Wasps and Tayside Tigers gave the sport the best possible publicity in Saturday's televised Norwich Union Cup final, Ayr Bruins and Murrayfield Racers showed the unacceptable face of ice hockey in their Heineken League match in Ayr on Saturday.

A brawl in the first period saw the ejection of two players from each side and, although tempers were just about held in check, Sunday's return in Edinburgh was another niggling game which did little credit to either side.

Racers won both encounters comfortably to move to within two points of the Wasps at the top of the premier division. Nottingham Panthers are also mounting a realistic challenge and they had a successful Scottish weekend with wins over, File Flyers and Tayside Tigers.

On Saturday, Panthers built their success on well organized defence and conceded only five goals in the two games. The Flyers had some excuse as Karkment, one of their Czechoslovak imports, was missing

because of a damaged ankle that could keep him out until after the turn of the year.

Solihull Barons surprisingly won away to Peterborough Pirates and they now have seven points, leaving Strathclyde Rangers, humbled at home by Whitley Warriors and still searching for their first point, even further adrift at the foot of the table.

London's division one sides also fired badly with Richmond Flyers thrashed by Deeside Dragons, for whom Perini scored 14 goals and five assists, and Lee Valley Lions beaten at home by Cleveland Bombers, who had surrendered their unbeaten record to Medway Bears on Saturday.

RESULTS: Heineken League: Premier division: Ayr Bruins 4, Murrayfield Racers 12, File Flyers 2, Nottingham Panthers 8, Murrayfield Racers 15, Ayr Bruins 8, Peterborough Pirates 5, Solihull Barons 7, Strathclyde Rangers 17, Tayside Tigers 3, Nottingham Panthers 5, Division one: Medway Bears 8, Cleveland Bombers 4, Strathclyde Rangers 15, Sunderland Gladiators 6, Cardiff Devils 18, Sunderland Gladiators 1, Deeside Dragons 25, Richmond Flyers 8, Glasgow Eagles 6, Telford Monarchs 5, Lee Valley Lions 2, Cleveland Bombers 8, Romford Racers 4, Telford Tigers 10.

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Rebel Song set to redeem reputation

By Mandarin

Rebel Song, a beaten odds-on favourite last time, can redeem himself by winning division two of the Christmas Tree Chase at Leicester this afternoon. He is my nap.

One of the last season's leading novice hurdlers, when his wins included the Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival, he was strongly fancied to make a successful debut over fences at Wincanton last month.

However, he found the front-running Larchwood 2½ lengths too good, and while first impressions suggested it was a disappointing defeat there are reasons to believe he should not be lightly discarded.

Larchwood had shown fair chasing form himself last term, particularly a two-length second to Tom Bir at Newbury, and she had also won first time out last season.

Rebel Song, with that experience behind him, is taken to register his opening win over fences, at the main expense of Ibn Majed, who was promoted to first after the disqualification of Hognanny on technical grounds at Huntingdon last week.

That fortunate victory does, though, mean he must concede 8lb to Rebel Song, a task which would well prove beyond him.

Oliver and Simon Sherwood, the team associated

with Rebel Song, can also take the first division with Sun Insured. The five-year-old made a highly encouraging chasing debut when a running-on two-length second to Agathist at Warwick last month. He looks set to go one better here.

The Sherwood brothers will also have high hopes with Numerate in the Holly Handicap Chase, but in this instance I prefer the David Barons-trained Seagram.

He produced a strong late rally to beat Highway Express by a short head at Wincanton last month, with the third another 10 lengths away, and he can follow up.

Martin Pipe continues to go from strength to strength and

he can land the Mistletree Novices' Hurdle with Jabrat.

Pipe is also represented in the day's most valuable race, the Coomes Handicap Hurdle, at Fontwell Park, with Stepaside Lord. There is an element of danger in opposing any Pipe runner at present, but I feel justified in doing just that here with course and distance winner Matbar.

He was successful in novices' hurdles last season and his seven-length third to Admirals All at Kempton last month suggests he is capable of taking even a race as competitive as this.

Josh Gifford's runners have a strong following here and the Fendron family has every prospect

of rewarding his supporters by saddling Short List to win the Greenwicks Novices' Hurdle. Gifford has given himself an extra string to his bow by also declaring Robeson, but my preference is for Short List.

He was about seven lengths third to Pamber Priory over 2½ miles here last month and this extra four furlongs should suit him well.

The consistent Impany is taken to defy top weight in the Wally Coomes Handicap Chase, while Baraora's 12-length second to the useful Wolfhanger at Fakenham in October gives him an outstanding chance in the Coomes Conditional Jockeys' Selling Chase.

FONTWELL PARK

Selections

By Mandarin

12.45 Baraora.
1.15 Short List.
1.45 Impany.

2.15 Matbar.
2.45 Shanbally Boy.
3.15 Occamist.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.15 STEPSIDE LORD (nap).

Going: good to soft

12.45 COOMES CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING CHASE (25.12: 2m 2f 110yds) (11 runners)

1	4894A	PLAYFIELD 228 (B.G.S.) (B. Burt) 14-10-12	1	4894A	PLAYFIELD 228 (B.G.S.) (B. Burt) 14-10-12
2	4894B	SOUTHWIND SPIRIT 285 (B.G.S.) (S. Burt) 12-10-12	2	4894B	SOUTHWIND SPIRIT 285 (B.G.S.) (S. Burt) 12-10-12
3	4894C	SQUARE-ROUNDED 12 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 11-10-12	3	4894C	SQUARE-ROUNDED 12 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 11-10-12
4	4894D	WINDSOR 12 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 11-10-12	4	4894D	WINDSOR 12 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 11-10-12
5	4894E	AYAT 7 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 11-10-12	5	4894E	AYAT 7 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 11-10-12
6	4894F	BARAORA 7 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 11-10-12	6	4894F	BARAORA 7 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 11-10-12
7	4894G	STERLING VIRTUE 22 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 11-10-12	7	4894G	STERLING VIRTUE 22 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 11-10-12
8	4894H	THE COBALT 12 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 11-10-12	8	4894H	THE COBALT 12 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 11-10-12
9	4894I	MISS TALL 4 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 11-10-12	9	4894I	MISS TALL 4 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 11-10-12
10	4894J	STREET LEVEL 40 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 11-10-12	10	4894J	STREET LEVEL 40 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 11-10-12
11	4894K	WOLVER PLUME 1371 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 11-10-12	11	4894K	WOLVER PLUME 1371 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 11-10-12

BETTING: 1-11 Baraora, 3-4 The Cobalt, 7-2 Wingers, 7-1 Southwind Spirit, 10-1 Street Level, 14-1 Playfield, 15-1 others.

1987: SW WAGER 5-10-8 Peter Caldwell (25-1) C. Triffin 15 ran

FORM: SOUTHWIND SPIRIT failed to complete last season's last term, but good to firm with THE COBALT (11th) and WINDSOR (12th) at Wincanton last month. Needs further work to be competitive in this race.

WINDSOR was second to Wincanton last month, but good to firm with THE COBALT (11th) and WINDSOR (12th) at Wincanton last month.

BARAORA was always behind when 7th of 13

1.15 GREENWICKS NOVICES HURDLE (25.12: 2m 2f 110yds) (16 runners)

1	4894A	ANTHONY 35 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11	1	4894A	ANTHONY 35 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11
2	4894B	COMET 35 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11	2	4894B	COMET 35 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11
3	4894C	FIGHTING LAD 35 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11	3	4894C	FIGHTING LAD 35 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11
4	4894D	GROVELANDS 24 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11	4	4894D	GROVELANDS 24 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11
5	4894E	HAWTHORN JACOB 13 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11	5	4894E	HAWTHORN JACOB 13 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11
6	4894F	NEVER A PENNY 22 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11	6	4894F	NEVER A PENNY 22 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11
7	4894G	PARK LIGHT 12 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11	7	4894G	PARK LIGHT 12 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11
8	4894H	R LAD 54 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11	8	4894H	R LAD 54 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11
9	4894I	ROBERTSON 12 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11	9	4894I	ROBERTSON 12 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11
10	4894J	SHORT LIST 12 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11	10	4894J	SHORT LIST 12 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11
11	4894K	STAR FORMULA 12 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11	11	4894K	STAR FORMULA 12 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11
12	4894L	THE UNDERSTATER 34 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11	12	4894L	THE UNDERSTATER 34 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11
13	4894M	UP INDIAN 1200 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11	13	4894M	UP INDIAN 1200 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11
14	4894N	FAIRYTALE-ENDING 40 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11	14	4894N	FAIRYTALE-ENDING 40 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11
15	4894O	ROSEA PLUMA (Major M. Williams) 14-10-11	15	4894O	ROSEA PLUMA (Major M. Williams) 14-10-11
16	4894P	SHORT LIST 12 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11	16	4894P	SHORT LIST 12 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-11

BETTING: 5-4 Short List, 7-2 Grovelands, 4-1 Robertson, 8-1 Never A Penny, 14-1 Park Light, 15-1 others.

1987: AUCTION TIME 4-10-11 Dale McKinnon (7-4) ran at Newbury 20 ran

FORM: NEVER A PENNY poor form in novice hurdles last season, but good to firm with THE COBALT (11th) and WINDSOR (12th) at Wincanton last month.

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2.15 COOMES HANDICAP HURDLE (25.12: 2m 2f 110yds) (11 runners)

1	4894A	STEPSIDE LORD 311 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12	1	4894A	STEPSIDE LORD 311 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12
2	4894B	HEART OF STONE 35 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12	2	4894B	HEART OF STONE 35 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12
3	4894C	RYDE AGAIN 220 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12	3	4894C	RYDE AGAIN 220 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12
4	4894D	GRAY SALLY 21 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12	4	4894D	GRAY SALLY 21 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12
5	4894E	PERMAN STYLISH 7 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12	5	4894E	PERMAN STYLISH 7 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12
6	4894F	BULMIST DYNASTY 7 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12	6	4894F	BULMIST DYNASTY 7 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12
7	4894G	SCHAMAL BOY 25 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12	7	4894G	SCHAMAL BOY 25 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12
8	4894H	COCKS ROSE 21 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12	8	4894H	COCKS ROSE 21 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12
9	4894I	MATBAR 8 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12	9	4894I	MATBAR 8 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12
10	4894J	SMITHY BEAR 15 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12	10	4894J	SMITHY BEAR 15 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12
11	4894K	FARTHORNE LAD 10 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12	11	4894K	FARTHORNE LAD 10 (B.G.S.) (H. Burt) 14-10-12

Long leaping SALLY BEAR 9-5, FARTHORNE LAD 9-5.

BETTING: 11-4 Ryde Again, 7-2 Stepside Lord, 8-1 Heart of Stone, 8-1 Gode Fox, 10-1 Fartorne LAD, 15-1 others.

1987: SOUTHERN 7-11-2 S. Shawood (8-2) J. Jenkins 9 ran

FORM: STEPSIDE LORD was a 17th of 20 in the last season's last term, but good to firm with THE COBALT (11th) and WINDSOR (12th) at Wincanton last month.

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Cross country charge defies all sense

By Alan Lee

For any who have lost faith in the great British tradition of sporting eccentricity, the farm fields of Leicestershire provided a guaranteed tonic yesterday. There, amid the animation of the involved and the blank astonishment of the uninformed, was staged one of the most outlandish horse races imaginable.

Do not be fooled by the title. The Melton Hunt Club cross country ride may conjure up an image of a gentle canter over hills and meadows; it is nothing of the sort.

Grossly simplified, it is an intensely competitive 3½-mile race, crossing 35 obstacles from relatively innocuous hedges to a ditched road crossing, beside which Becher's Brook at Aintree would look inviting. The horses are hunters, team chasers and ancient point-to-pointers. The riders are all old enough to know better.

They gathered, with a rosy-cheeked eagerness which only those who have ridden at speed over fences would remotely comprehend, in a muddy field near the village of Upper Broughton, a part of England famous for cheese, pork pies and hunting horns.

They have gathered here on a winter's morning for this delightfully batty event each year since the mid-1950s and they show no sign of wanting to come to their senses.

Some years there have been up to 70 runners. A crazy but spectacular cavalry charge. Yesterday, partly because of a postponement from the original date two weeks ago, when frost and snow combined to

defeat even these indomitable spirits, the field was down to 44. I counted them all out. I counted only 25 back.

That the race is no respecter of fame was evident at the first fence. Ian Balding, who had travelled from Berkshire, where he trains the Queen's flat horses, came to grief. Unhurt, except perhaps in pride, he retired to the marquee (whisky maces a speciality) and vowed to return next year.

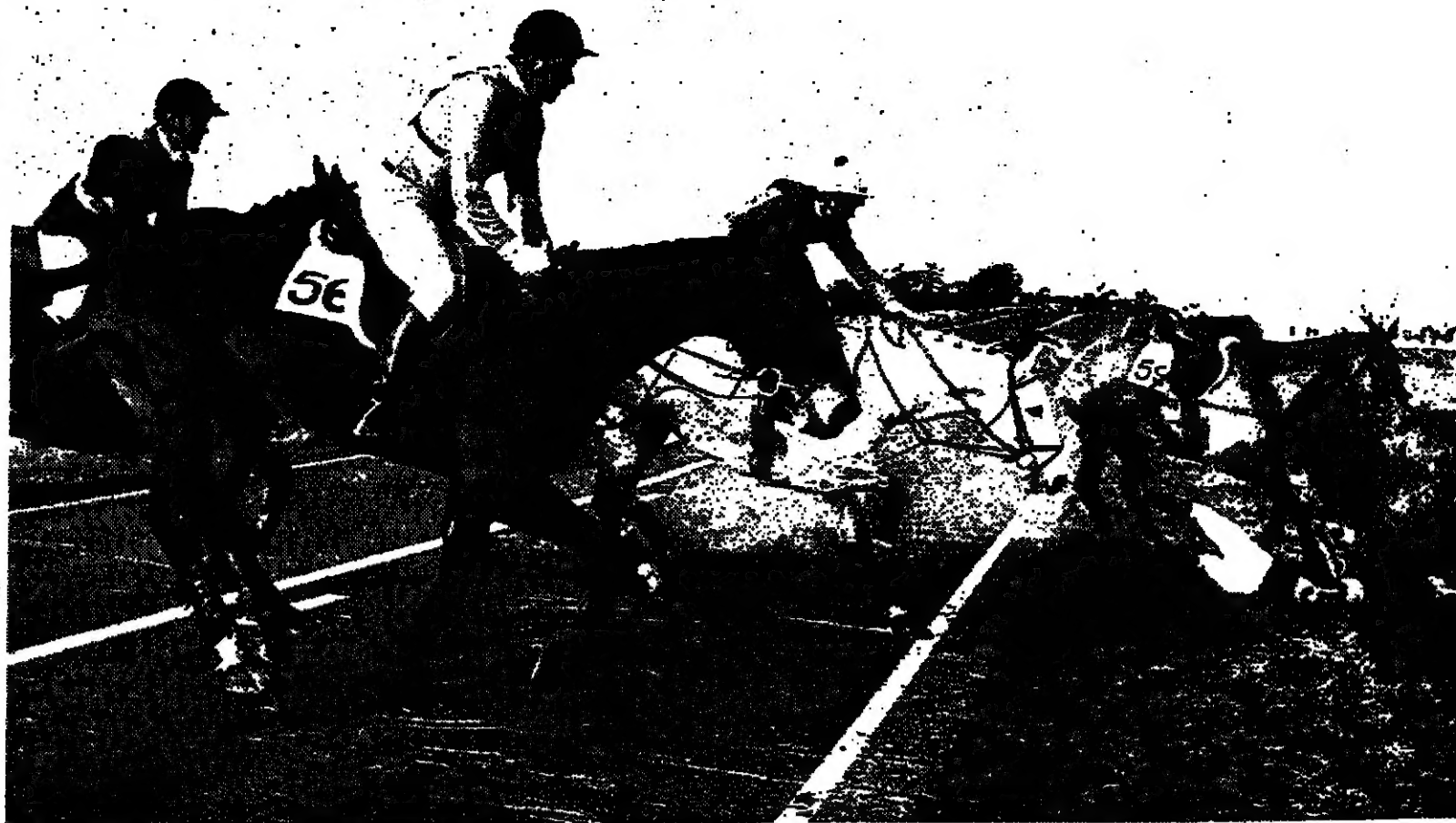
That the race is no respecter of age or sex was confirmed at the third. There, Mrs Sally Everitt, aged 56 and riding in the event for the 25th time, took off perfectly on her own horse, Golden Destiny, only to be bundled rudely into the mud as another runner cannoned into her.

Mrs Everitt was a mixture of indignation and determination. She bridled: "That is only the second time I've failed to complete since my first ride in 1962 and it's annoying because I really felt I might win."

She has won once before and she does not intend to give up yet. "I have told everybody I'll retire from the event when I'm 60 and I mean to win it again before then."

There were, inevitably, more hard luck stories on the way round, many invisible to all except the helicopter which circled protectively over the runners and a few dozen spectators claiming the prime viewing site on the natural grandstand of Muxlow Hill.

One such disaster befell the race sponsor, Ashley Bealby, whose company, Computer Horse Link, is an enterprising



Down and on their way out: The ditch at the road crossing unseats another competitor, forcing the pursuing riders to take evasive action

spin-off from the Dateline concept, matching horses and owners rather than prospective soul-mates.

Bealby was mortified when his mount refused the first. He finally coaxed the reluctant horse over the hedge and made up lost ground only to come down six fences from home.

He said: "I remounted but my trousers were crossed and I

couldn't pull him up to get things right." He jumped the remaining fences in this disorganized state and then handed over the trophy to a man who had come fully two minutes earlier.

It was, considering the mishaps of the marathon, a thrilling two-hour finish. The judges, crouched on a hay cart, failed to contain their excitement. The pair jumped the final hedge together before Mike Roberts, aged 45, a director of an engineering company, quickened clear ahead the quindly named Jaiy Tom.

Roberts, who lives in East Sussex but hunts in Leicestershire with the Quorn, candidly described his mount as "a failed showjumper". But he

said: "He is a freak of nature. He is not a racehorse but he has won every serious cross country race in England."

"Now that he has won the biggest and best I shall take him to Czechoslovakia next year for the Pardobice. If he can jump round Melton, he can jump round there."

Support for that ambition

came from William Spurbury, who finished second in this year's Pardobice on Free Flow. Yesterday, on the same horse, he could come only third.

The announcer made much of this at the prize giving. Around these parts, you see, they believe that the Melton race is unique in its demands on horse and rider. They may well be right.

END COLUMN

Fighting the battle for fans

By Clive White

It has taken him a while to get round to it, but today Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, will finally come face-to-face with the people for whom his Government's contentious Football Spectators Bill was designed — the supporters.

At least Moynihan has moved a slight quicker than football's establishment in seeking out their views. About 100 years quicker. In all that time supporters have never been as much as asked the time of day. In fairness to the authorities there had not been a reputable supporters group with whom they could confer. That was until August 1985, when the aftermath of the Heysel stadium disaster a couple of "kopites" decided to hand English supporters back their self-respect.

Rogan Taylor, a writer-researcher, council training officer, voluntary worker and "football lover", and Peter Garrett, a public liaison police officer, came to the conclusion that had supporters of Juventus and Liverpool met in a pub to organize that fatal match, they could not have made a worse job of it than UEFA and the Belgian FA. It was time, they thought, that supporters had a say in the running of their sport.

Understanding how supporters feel

Within four days of drawing up the rules and regulations of the Football Supporters Association they were given the chance to be heard. BBC Newsnight rang to say that they needed the view of the supporter in a debate on football hooliganism and could they send along a few members. Of course they could, they replied. They sent four — the entire FSA membership. "We knew then that there was a hole in the market," Taylor remarked.

Since then the Association has sprouted 13 branches outside of Liverpool with two more to follow shortly while the membership has risen to over 20,000. Taylor, the chairman of FSA ("we've got a lot of lady members") is an eloquent speaker who understands the language of supporters.

He is regularly invited to speak on problems affecting supporters at meetings and seminars up and down the country and was even quoted in the House of Commons this week during the debate on the Queen's Speech.

Yet despite the emergence of the FSA as a significant voice within the game, they were excluded until it was too late, from the working party set up by the Government to discuss ways of implementing the national membership scheme.

Contrary to a report in a recent Sunday newspaper which claims that supporters were in favour of compulsory membership, it will come as no surprise to many to learn that Taylor does not know of a single supporter who is in favour of it.

"We think it's vindictive towards supporters and irrelevant to hooligans," he said.

When FSA meet Moynihan next week, they intend to impress upon him that the Bill will upset a much larger number of people and a greater cross-section than they suspect he imagines.

Golden opportunity has been missed

"I believe that a number of Tory MPs, sitting in marginal constituencies, will realize that 1,000 footy votes and the £23,500-a-year job is gone."

It is Taylor's belief that the Government has missed a golden opportunity to build into its report positive rather than negative measures for supporters.

"They could have drawn our fire by saying: 'The wonder of this scheme is that every club will know who its customers are, let it be self-administered and they will be more enthusiastic about it. We are offering you the bones of a real democracy'. That's just what supporters have been waiting for years. Instead they stabbed themselves in the foot," Taylor said.

It is Taylor's understanding that any implementation of the Bill could be delayed until as late as the spring of 1990 because of the technical problems of introducing such an ambitious scheme. He understands that the people responsible for its implementation are requesting a pilot scheme and more time.

"We feel they've rushed into this one, thinking nobody will mind," he said.

Britain humbled in Federation Cup

From Barry Wood, Melbourne

The impoverished state of British tennis was further underlined yesterday when the Federation Cup team was defeated 2-1 by Indonesia in the first round.

The result should have dramatic effects within the hallowed walls of the Lawn Tennis Association, for there are no excuses that can be offered. The unknowns from the South China Sea were better, smarter and less prone to careless errors.

Clare Wood was the only light to shine on one of the grimmest days in our tennis history. She played with some style to overcome Waya Walalangi 6-2, 6-3.

It was a good win, for although ranked 532, Walalangi was competent enough and displayed a useful forehand. Wood, however, might have won even more decisively if she had capitalized on some early chances. For instance, she held five break points in the second game, yet lost them all.

Sara Gomer, destined to be the British No. 1 when the new rankings are announced, seems to have some of her worst performances for when she is sporting the Union Jack.

One recalls her capitulation to Lori McNeil in the Wightman Cup last year; her 6-2, 7-6 defeat by Rahayu Basuki must join the list of unacceptable displays.

She never really looked as if she had the confidence to win. Her game was littered with unforced errors, and she appeared to lack any real game plan. Nerves may have also played a part.

Time, however, may prove that Gomer was outplayed by a rising star, for Basuki showed considerable talent. Still 18 and a student, there is much in her game to suggest a worthwhile career could lay ahead. She has a strong and accurate serve, hits her forehand deep and knows what shots to hit and when.

That was also demonstrated in the doubles, when she was joined by a housewife and mother of a three months. Suzanna Kusuma. This time Wood became a victim, together with Julie Salmon, and the result was 7-5, 6-3.

RESULTS: First round: Indonesia vs Great Britain, 2-1 (W Walalangi lost to C Wood, 6-2, 6-3; R Basuki to S Gomer, 6-2, 7-6; Salmon and S Kusuma to Wood and J Salmon, 7-5, 6-3; France to Japan, 3-0; Australia to Israel, 3-0; Austria to Belgium, 2-1; Sweden to The Netherlands, 3-0; Italy to Poland, 2-1.

Smith pledges to bring glory days back to Newcastle

By Louise Taylor

Five years ago Jim Smith turned down an opportunity to manage Newcastle United for "family reasons". Yesterday he had no qualms about leaving Queen's Park Rangers in order to undertake the job he regards as "the biggest challenge of my life".

Challenge it certainly will be. Walking with bare feet over burning coals would be considered by some to carry less potential pain than the task of bringing the glory days back to St James' Park.

Bottom of the first division, Newcastle are without a goal in 500 minutes of League football with their undoubted problems on the field exacerbated by the rumblings of an attempted boardroom takeover.

A computer failure at

Heathrow yesterday meant

that Smith landed at Newcastle 50 minutes late yesterday. Nevertheless in this instance past precedent suggests that Tyneside supporters need not yet extinguish all hopes of salvaging a hitherto miserable season.

Smith, aged 48, enjoys a reputation for digging clubs out of deep holes and QPR, Birmingham City, Oxford United, and Colchester United all enjoyed appreciable upturns in fortune under his management.

"The team can't get a win and can't score a goal. That's why I'm here to alter all that," Smith said on arrival at Newcastle airport last night.

"It doesn't worry me at all that the club is in such a precarious state or under threat from a possible takeover. I have been involved in

these situations before and it won't stop me getting on with the job."

While such a healthy track record will no doubt boost Smith's confidence, his bank balance will be buoyed up by a contract worth £500,000 over three years which will make him one of the best paid managers in English football.

Above all Smith is determined to prove himself as a leading manager with one of the League's largest clubs. "Newcastle should be there with the Manchester Uniteds, Evertons, and Liverpools of this world. In two years I would like to feel that we are."

That's how long I am looking to take to turn things round," he insisted.

"My first task is to maintain the club's first division status and then if I make it successful the world is my oyster. They are just crying out for success up here. I will be leading from the front because one thing I am not short of is bottle."

Gordon McKeag, the Newcastle chairman, was clearly relieved to have secured the signature of an experienced manager to end the interim reign of Colin Suggett following the dismissal earlier in the season of Willie McPaul. There have been a number of rejections from well known figures.

The players obviously shared Smith's sentiments. As Dave Benson, the goalkeeper and club captain put it: "Jim Smith has a great track record and I think he will be good for this club."

Shreeves holds the fort

Although Peter Shreeves, the coach, remains favourite to succeed Jim Smith as the manager of Queen's Park Rangers, Trevor Francis and Osvaldo Ardiles were mentioned yesterday for positions in a revamped set-up (Dennis Signy writes).

Smith has recommended Shreeves, the former Tottenham Hotspur manager, and he was put in temporary command yesterday. As Smith travelled to the North-East, Shreeves took a party of players to Manchester for the Guinness Soccer Six competition.

Richard Thompson, the Rangers chairman, spoke to Shreeves on the telephone before he left. "I will sit down and talk fully with him later this week," he said.

Although Thompson was insisting he still had an open mind on the appointment, it is a secret that Francis, the former England captain, has aspirations at managerial level and wishes to stake a claim. Ardiles, the former Argentinian international, is on monthly contracts at Rangers. He was at Tottenham with Shreeves, and, at 36, wants to move into coaching.

Ipswich hoping to sign Baltacha

Ipswich Town yesterday continued their attempt to become the first English club to sign a Russian player (Louise Taylor writes). John Duncan, the club manager, and David Shepherson, a director, were in the Soviet Union, where their main target is Sergei Baltacha, a central defender with Dynamo Kiev.

"I am confident of bringing back one of the players," Duncan said. The club's initiative is being supported by Michael Irvine, the MP for Ipswich. "He has been helpful throughout," Duncan added. "He put me in touch with the right people to contact and is now working on visas and work permits."

Duncan has been pursuing Baltacha, aged 30, since the start of the season. "We have been watching the situation closely and we have offered Baltacha a possible contract. I have been encouraged by developments, encouraged enough to make this trip. After all, it was them that invited us out," he said.

Tour disruption threat

The England cricket team will face anti-apartheid protests if the proposed tour of New Zealand goes ahead in February and March, Dick Cuthbert, a spokesman for the Halt All Racist Tours group, said in Wellington yesterday.

He also promised action against the Pakistan team if it agreed to take part in a triangular one-day series with England and New Zealand.

Thursday's meeting of the Test and County Cricket Board, at Lord's, will be given an update on prospects for the tour, which would be a replacement for the cancelled trip to India.

The board may well decide to call a special meeting to formulate policy for the vital meeting of the International Cricket Conference in January, when some delicate negotiations will be needed to

prevent a split in world cricket over selection policy concerning cricketers who play and coach in South Africa.

Although the question of a successor to Peter May as chairman of the England selectors is on the agenda, no decision is expected until next March. However, there will be decisions on playing matters with the maximum permitted run-up in Refuge Assurance games likely to be extended from 15 to 22 yards to improve the quality of fast bowling in these 40-over games.

Also discussed will be a proposal that counties should not be permitted to register more than one overseas player, the change to be made as soon as possible. If approved, the new regulation could come in for the 1990 season.

Masters line-up

Kelly Evernden, of New Zealand, and the American, Johan Kriek, the late replacements, are drawn in the same group as the No. 1 seeds, Ken Flach and Robert Seguso, of the United States, for the Masters doubles tennis tournament starting at the Albert Hall tomorrow.

Red groups: Flach and R Seguso (US); S Connors (US); K Evernden (NZ) and J Kriek (US). Blue groups: J Fitzgerald (Aus) and A Jarry (Gib); R Flach and J Pugh (US); P Althoff and D Vinner (Sov); M Davis (US) and B Drown (Aus).

Pair cleared

Steve Baddeley, the Commonwealth badminton champion, and Steve Butler, the England No. 4, have been exonerated for withdrawing from the Scottish Open tournament in November. Following an investigation, Paul Whetnall, the England manager, announced that he was satisfied the pair were unfit to compete in the event.

Desert date

Liverpool and Celtic, the champions of England and Scotland respectively, will meet for the unofficial British football title in the Dubai Cup in the desert state on January 17.

Official duty

Three Britons will officiate in the Davis Cup final between Sweden and West Germany from December 16 to 18. George Grime, the referee, is joined by umpires, Jeremy Shales and Stephen Winyard.

Start halted

Florida — Racing on the first day of the world windsurfing championship, in which Dave Perks, of Cornwall, will defend his title, was abandoned yesterday due to lack of wind.

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